

12-PAGE SPECIAL Anatole Kaletsky, P9 Matthew Parris, P2 Simon Jenkins, P24 Peter Riddell, P24 Tim Congdon, P24



Charlin 150

SHOPPING IN STYLE

Nigella Lawson on how your clothes say who you are Alan Coren on his fear of buying anything at all PAGE 23



MES



BUDGET

Income tax Basic rate tax cut by lp to 23p. Lower rate 20p band widened by

£200 to £4,100. Top rate 40 per cent threshold up £600 to £26,100. Basic personal allowance up £280 to £4,045. Married couple allowances up £40.

Motoring

Car tax discs up £5 to £145. Petrof and diesel up 3p a litre. Duty on road fuel gases cut by 25 per cent to encourage gas

Tobacco

Tax on packet of 20 cigarettes up 15p: 7p on small cigars: 8p on pipe

the price of handrolling tobacco pegged to inflation to counter impact of smuggled

Inheritance tax

Inheritance tax threshold raised to £215,000 from £200,000, equivalent to a 40 ner cent increase in the threshold over a two-year period.

Alcohol

No change in beer and wine duty for second year running Spirits down 4 per cent (26p a bottle). Alcopops face 40 per cent tax rise (between 7p ary to address concern about

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Airport tax doubled to Ei0 from £5 for European flights and to £20 from £10 for rest of the world from next

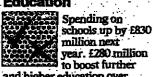
Economy Growth fore-cast of 2.5 per cent this year and 3.5 per cent next year. Underly-

ing inflation expected to meet or undershoot target of 2.5 spending to rise by 4 per cent

Public spending

Spending forecast to fall to 40 per cent of GDP by 1997. Government running costs to be cur by 7 per cent by end of the decade.

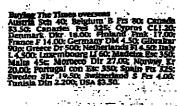
Education



to boost further and higher education over next two years, including £20 million next year for science equipment. Sale of student loans debt.

Tax and benefit fraud

Crackdown on VAT evasion. Spend to Save scheme, with £800 million to be spent over next three years on combating benefit fraud, to save up to £6.7 billion.



The Times on the internet http://www.the-times.co.uk.



Clarke's 1p cheers Tories

Leaky Budget showers promises of prosperity

POLITICAL EDITOR, AND JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE cheered the Conservatives yesterday with modest tax cuts in a "virtuous" Budget promising steadily rising living standards while seeking to avoid higher interest rates in the run-up to the general election.

The Chancellor produced a welltrailed, unspectacular package whose underlying prudence was intended to rebuild voters' trust in the Tories' economic competence.

He shrugged aside an unprecedented series of leaks to unveil a "give and take" Budget. With one hand he announced a Ip reduction in income tax to 23p as part of £2.2 billion raft of cuts in personal taxation and alcohol duties. With the other he outlined £1.5 billion of tax increases including higher insurance premiums and airport taxes, 3p a litre on fuel, and 15p on a packet of cigarettes.

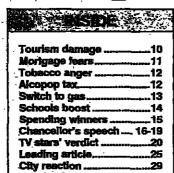
It left the Chancellor claiming that a family on average earnings would be £370 better off next year, and Tony Blair contending Tory tax rises had cost the typical family £2,120 since the last election.

The Budget contained a net tax reduction of £700 million. Al-though Mr Clarke announced big overall public spending will be cut by £1.9 billion, with an extra £500 million estimated to come from a spend-to-save" campaign to close tax loopholes.

He also said that tax relief on profit related pay would be phased out — incurring Labour derision by saying the curb would not start until 1998 — and unveiled expected clampdowns on benefit fraud and tax evasion, and the benefits paid to

single parents.

Mr Clarke and Treasury officials, with their eyes on the City reaction, were swift to claim that this amounted to a £1.7 billion "fiscal squeeze". Borrowing next income tax by a penny to 23p, Mr



ear is forecast at £19 billion. £4 billion less than the Treasury's summer prediction

However, initial City reactions were cool and attention immediately turned to Mr Clarke's next interest rate discussion with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, on December 11. The money markets, which have already assumed a rise in base rates from 6 per cent to 7.25 per cent by the end of next year, did not budge in this view.

Labour officials were also quick to point out that, taking into account tax increases already in the aipeline, next year's overall tax burden would rise, a claim borne out by the Treasury's "Red Book" which charts public finances into

With a humourous and wellreceived 77-minute speech, Mr Clarke confounded predictions that the Budget would be an anticlimax after the leaking of many of its key proposals — a security breach which is now the subject of a Scotland Yard investigation.

He told MPs at the outset that while he was not going to play Santa Claus in the run up to Christmas "this year I don't have to play Scrooge either". And he raised Tory spirits with the claim that it was not a Budget for the next few months but one "for many prosper-

Besides cutting the basic rate of

by £200, and increased tax thresholds. Had he not done that, he said, he could have afforded a 2p cut in the basic rate. The steady-as-she-goes package

seemed to have won over Conservative MPs whose expectations had been carefully managed to accept that a giveaway Budget would have been viewed with suspicion by voters. John Redwood summed up the mood when he said: "It is not an election-winning Budget in the sense that it does not give away an awful lot of money that we can't afford to give away. That would have been wrong, so I think the Chancellor has made the right judgment and made sure that he is concentrating on running the econ-

But Mr Blair, in an effective response that his backbenchers rated highly, branded it a "give with one hand, take with another" package. "One thing we now know for certain is that taxes will be higher at the next election than the last and that the Conservative Party that fought the general election on the promise it would cut tax will - after all the changes made today - leave the average British taxpayer £2,120 worse off in

This is actually the last-gasp Budget of a government whose with the future and can make amends for the past."

For the Liberal Democrats. Malcolm Bruce said: "This Budget fools no-one - it is a triple Tory con-trick, a Budget of smoke and mirrors which does not deliver the lower taxes, lower borrowing and higher spending claimed by the Chancellor." Although economists conceded

that the Chancellor had avoided a pre-election giveaway, there was a strong consensus that the Budget still was not tight enough to counteract strengthening economic growth and head off Bank of England pressure for higher inter-



Roger Bootle, chief economist with Midland Bank, questioned the Chancellor's assertion that his Budget was both good economics and good politics, arguing that it failed on both counts.

He said: "This package was prudent and dull enough to leave Conservative backbenchers unexcited but not prudent and dull enough to stop Eddie George pressing for another interest rate

rise." There was also considerable consternation about the Chancellor's economic forecasts which showed Britain's underlying inflation rate falling — miraculously, some sceptics said — falling to the 2.5 per cent upper limit of the Government's target range next

And there was cynicism about the Chancellor's claims that he had

year despite accelerating economic

cut public spending, particularly about his reliance on clawing back money through attacking tax avoidance and benefit fraud.

John Shepperd, chief economist at Yamaichi International Europe, said: "This is a shaky foundation for the Chancellor's forecast for improving public finances. It is the sort of thing Italy would get up to meet the Maastricht Treaty economic criteria.*

Late-night paper chase for scoop

By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

THE news that Westminster's best kept secret had leaked was broken to Downing Street by Piers Morgan, the Editor of the Daily Mirror, who asked: "Do you" want your Budget back?"

Jonathan Haslam, the
Prime Minister's press secretary, who took the telephone

call at 7.20 pm on Monday, had heard that question many times before. What are you talking about?" he demanded.

Less than two minutes

later, he had his answer. One sheet of Treasury-headed paper, faxed from MGN headquarters to Mr Haslam. confirmed the worst government leak for fifty years. It detailed new income tax rates to be announced the next day and prompted a flurry of activity that almost culminated in the Chancellor of the Exchequer being called to the dispatch box to deliver sensi-

tive parts of his Budget speech late that night. The documents had been offered exclusively to the Daily Mirror on Sunday by Peter Hounam, a freelance investigative journalist with extensive contacts in White-hall. Mr Hounam, a former Daily Mirror columnist who had acquired the papers over the weekend, spoke to the acting editor, Craig Mc-Kenzie A sum of £20,000 was

sought and a cash payment of £5,000 was agreed on Monday morning. It is not clear if any money was handed over.

Kevin Maguire, the Mirror's political editor, was spotted leaving the Palace of Westminster at 10.35 am on Monday and a Mirror executive met Mr Hounam in a coffee bar near Whitehall at about the same time. The papers were on Mr Morgan's desk by 11 am and confirmed

Eight hours later, having received the fax that confirmed the worst, Mr Haslam launched into a damage limitation exercise. John Major was told 18 minutes before leaving Downing Street for a black tie dinner at the Speaker's House in honour of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. There, the news spread quickly. Some ministers at the dinner were report-

edly informed by the Duke. Kenneth Clarke was told by Jill Rutter, his press secretary, when he returned to the Treasury from Buckingham Palace where he had had a traditional 30-minute eve-of-Budget audience with the Oueen.

Back at Downing Street, Mr Haslam had telephoned Mr Morgan by 7.30 pm to warn him an injunction was being sought to block publication. At 8.05 pm the injunc-

Mr Haslam could not have known he was directing the Government's guns at the wrong enemy. Mr Morgan, having held a meeting of senior executives, had decided 30 minutes before not to publish.

But the Mirror's rivals, who had heard on the Fleet Street grapevine something was up, were not covered by the injunction.

Mr Morgan agreed that the Budget documents would be returned to their rightful owner that night and Anthony Harwood, the deputy night news editor, handed them to a policeman at the Downing Street gates at 10.20 pm.

The celebrations in Downing Street and the Treasury were short-lived. Some of the documents were

Continued on page 2, col 5



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Cheering news for distillers

The Scotch Whisky Association last night welcomed the cut in excise duty, which will knock 26p off the price of a bottle and narrow the tax differential between spirits and other alcoholic drinks. Hugh Morrison, the association's director general, said: news for the industry at

Strict security, page 2 Chancellor rash to invoke the spirit of '36

By ALAN HAMILTON

KENNETH CLARKE was on shaky ground yesterday when he claimed that he had reduced income tax to its lowest level since the halcyon days of 1936, when Baldwin was in Downing Street and Edward VIII on his way to

Supposed golden ages do not always bear close inspection. In 1936 Neville Chamberlain, the Chancellor, increased income tax by a hefty threepence to 4/6 (22'2p) in the pound, the price of a pound of apples.

On the apple theory of economics, the present-day equivalent would have been Mr Clarke raising the basic rate can dwiched as it was between the fag yesterday by about 40p. Mr Chamberlain, whose budget

theme in that year of gathering clouds was "safety before comfort", reckoned that the increase would rield him an extra £12 million a year. Ever the smooth talker, he claimed that the move "would not seriously affect the improvement in trade or cause undue hardship." Yet in the same breath he further punished the British working man by slapping an

end of a worldwide depression and impending global conflict. Stanley Baldwin said it would be cowardly of him to receive the Jarrow marchers, who had walked to London to protest at 68 per cent unemployment in their town. A pound of sirloin was one shilling and sevenpence and a pound

of tomatoes sixpence. Fred Perry won the Wimbledon men's singles for the third successive year but the legendary cricketer

two Test centuries - 217 against India and 231 against Australia although his very best performances were several years before.

And it was the year in which the economist John Maynard Keynes published a paper offering his sol-ution to Britain's depression and unemployment increase the money supply, bring down interest rates and stimulate investment by spending on public works. You would not mistake Kenneth Clarke for J.M.Keynes, or 1936 for a good year.

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spoke yesterday, uninsured whisky-tippling Scottish dukes driving gaspowered Bentleys, who roll their own cigarettes, whose pay is not profit-related, whose vives do not work and who have a pathological fear of flying, will have raised their glasses in a grateful toast to a generous Chancellor. The rest of us scratched our heads and reached for the pocket

It was a brazen and stylish performance, containing

from an unusually well-armed Tony Blair the most crackling Opposition response in recent

memory. The Budget speech was heard, as ever, by a packed chamber. Standards of exotic garb for the occasion have fallen sadly over the decades and we had to make do with the knobbly knees of Bill Walker (C. Tayside N) in a

Mr Clarke was furnished not with the glass of whisky and water a Chancellor traditionally keeps at his elbow, but with a whole carafe. At one point he began refilling his glass at the same time as



As an entertainer, Clarke

showed the wit, timing and

polish of a seasoned performer

with a pig of a script to deliver

explaining how he was going to eliminate fraud. Warming to his fiscal theme, the Chancellor forgot his right wrist. still pouring the whisky. He remembered in the nick of brimmed to overflowing.

- and pulled it off. This Chancellor is not afraid to joke where others fear to tread. He began by chuckling that this Up in the Strangers' Galwas "the real Budget", not the lery, Mrs Gillian Clarke, her leaked one. He said this was hair in a neat bun, looked on his last Commons speaking engagement of the week - "or with the resigned despair of one whose husband is so at the moment I expect". He ambushed his shadow. Gorforever burning the toast.

don Brown, by claiming that Two Dogs lemonade! Life in "few serious commentators" disputed his forecasts, then (to Brown): "I hear some mutterings from the front bench opposite. I said few serious commentators". He giggled. Revealing plans to raise

taxes on alcoholic soft drinks, he explained this would put up the price by about 7p a bottle — "for those of my hon friends who have not yet tried them", he added, grinning round at the Tories behind. Dame Jill (Birmingham, Edgbaston), robed in a royal blue with the intensity of worth living. "Myself," said Clarke, "I haven't yet been converted to bubble-gum flavoured alco-pop." He took another swig of whisky.

The Chancellor told us that the basic rate of tax was the lowest for 60 years, then translated this into terms John Major, sitting beside him, would take on board: "not since Stanley Baldwin was Prime Minister," he said, "not since Wally Hammond scored a double century at the Oval." At the mention of Baldwin and Quink, looked grim: 7p on a Hammond, Mr Major bottle of Hooper's Hooch or grinned affectionately.

cheers began, I looked up at Mrs Clarke. She had been watching like an anxious mum. As the cheering intensified she relaxed, permitting herself a small, proud smile.

Then Tony Blair rose. Moments before, Peter Mandelson had rushed in with an envelope on which was written the figure 2120. This was handed to Mr Blair. Two thousand one hundred and twenty pounds' worth of extra tax for the average family!" declared the Labour Leader, minutes later, with his customary supreme intellectual self-confidence.

McAliskey fights extradition

The eldest daughter of the former nationalist MP Bernadette McAliskey flew from Belfast into Heathrow under a police guard yesterday afternoon to prepare for extradition proceedings to

Germany. German federal prosecutors want to question Ms McAliskey, a 25-year-old graduate of Queen's Univer-sity, Belfast, about the IRA mortar attack on the British Army barracks in Osnabruck in June. She was arrested on a provisional warrant by the RUC and has been in police custody since last Wednesday. She is wanted for questioning about attempted murder and possessing explosives.
A Home Office spokesman

said: "The Germans now have 40 days in which to make an extradition application. They have not done so formally

Pill addict sues her doctors

A woman addicted to a drug prescribed for anxiety 21 years ago is suing her doctors for £100,000 for negligence. Christine Kennedy, 45, from Glasgow, who has two children, told a court in Edinburgh yesterday she was prescribed four pills of Equand a day in 1975. In a few months, the prescription was II a day, but no warning was given that it was addictive. The three doctors deny negligence.

Former MP in critical condition

Former Labour MP Ted Leadbitter was in critical condition in hospital last night after a car crash on Sunday. near his former constituency of Hartlepool, Cieveland. Mr Leadbitter's car is believed to have run into the back of a lorry parked on the hard shoulder. Mr Leadbitter was the MP who, in 1979, exposed Sir Anthony Blunt, the Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, as a former Soviet agent.

Buerk mourns dead colleague

Michael Buerk pulled out of reading last night's BBCI Nine O'Clock News to mount a close colleague, the awardwinning cameraman Mohamed Amin, who died in the Ethiopian Airlines crash Mr Buerk was flying to Nairobi for Mr Amin's funeral In 1984, they worked on the television reports of the Ethiopian famine that caused public outrage and prompted the Live Aid concert.

Robert the Bruce lost front teeth

Robert the Bruce had four front teeth missing and a serious injury above his left eye, scientists in Edinburgh disclosed as they unveiled a computerised facial image created by a forensic pathologist and a terracotta head created by a dental pathologist. The injury was possibly caused by a sword or an axe. The head is on display at the National Portrait Gallery in

Europe gets too big for its boots

A 16-year-old boy has had to give up his chosen career as a plasterer because his size lo feet are too big for European regulations on protective footwear. David Anku from Hawksworth, west Yorkshire. has been told that workboots with reinforced toe-caps lose their strength at such a length and do not conform to European safety rule EN345. He may now have to train 25 a sports coach.

Strict security suggests Budget leak was external

By Valerie Elliott, whitehall editor

THE official Budget papers released in a single pack yesterday weighed just over 2lb and contained 93 separate press releases from Whitehall departments. The bundle included the Budget statement delivered by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, a summary of his speech, and the Financial Statement and Budget Report - the "Red Book" on

public expenditure. Since the weekend Treasury officials have been putting together the 3,000 packs which were escorted yesterday in vans aby security guards to the House of Commons. Packing took place in the basement of the Treasury in a room facing the central courtyard. The task of delivering papers to the Treasury and collating them is complicated because each Whitehall department is responsible for the production and printing of its own documents and ensuring secure delivery to the Treasury.

These functions used to be carried out by a printing firm known as the Macauley Press. which was part of Her Majes-ty's Stationery Office. Two years ago the firm became London Print Services, and remains an off-shoot of the privatised HMSO, which is now known as the Stationery Office. Staff are vetted before being employed and security on the premises is strict.

This year the Treasury had a contract with London Print Services to print the Red Book

and a Budget summary. However, the production of the Chancellor's Budget statement and other Treasury press releases were handled internally. They were com-posed on Treasury computers and copied by the department's photocopying unit before dispatch on Monday to the centre of operations in the

MAFF

FOREIGN AND

HEALTH

HÔME OFFICE

LORD CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

MOD

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE 30 press notices

ments handled their press releases internally, but the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise, with more than 30 announcements each, are understood to have used outside printers. The departments are entirely responsible for the security of this work.

It is understood that the WHITEHALL'S BUDGET PAPERCHASE N IRELAND OFFICE TRANSPORT TREASURY Four other office

contract usually includes the production of documents intended for traders and business people. This print run would not have formed part of the Treasury's own distribution of Budget packs. It is believed that some of these documents were among the papers leaked to the Daily Mirror on Monday and has prompted speculation that any leak must have come from outside Whitehall.

Budget material is moved around Whitehall and the Treasury in plain double packaging known as W-wrapped envelopes, usually an envelope within an envelope. Spot checks are made by senior Treasury officals to ensure that civil servants have properly taken charge of docu-

ments entrusted to them.

A senior Treasury official is responsible for Budget security and his task begins in the spring, when a core group of senior officials hold their first meeting to discuss possible material for inclusion in the Budget. As officials are drawn into planning they are each given a sheet of instructions on how to deal with their personal documents.

Each official is given per-sonal responsibility for the physical security of their numbered documents, which are contained in buff-coloured files marked "Secret Budget List Only". He or she must name the recipients.



Piers Morgan broke the news to Jonathan Haslam, the PM's press secretary

Late-night battle for a scoop

Continued from page 1 apparently missing. Hasiam was back on the telephone to the newspaper. Then news came through of a further and more damaging leak - this time from the Daily Mirror.

The conference of exerntives that had decided not to publish had been heavily influenced by David Montgomery, the chief executive. But not everyone present agreed with the decision, and while some were happy simply to brag about the scoop that might have been, others were soon complaining newspaper friends about the in fact it was £215,000. But

way the story had been killed.
Word reached Stuart Higgins, the editor of their rival, The Sun moved quickly.

The first edition was ripped up and later editions contained some of the highlights of Mr Clarke's speech, including the Ip in the pound off the basic rate of income tax, abolition of tax relief on profit-related pay, heavier tax for company drivers and lower corporation tax.

Only one detail was wrong. The Sun claimed the threshold for inheritance tax was to

Treasury were so alarmed about the effects of the discillant sures on the international money markets that they discussed the possibility of the Chancellor making an unprecedented appearance at the dispatch box to announce some of the price sensitive measures 15 hours early. But the plan was never implemented, not least because the

Commons had risen at 10.30 pm.
There was also talk of calling in journalists for a pre-Budget briefing yesterday morning — a tactic that had reassured the markets when the Canadian Government's

Shortly after 11pm, Jona-

than Hasiam and Jill Rutter

realised that The Sun had

picked up the story and that

they had lost the battle to keep

the lid on the Budget secrets, which they thought they had

Downing Street and the

won three hours earlier.

budget was leaked in the There was a sense of controlled panic pervading the air," one official said yesterday. "We wanted to

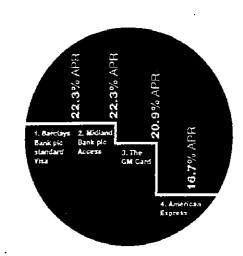
avoid at all costs sending in the Chancellor to give out half his Budget statement the night before." Peter Hounam, who has worked for The Sunday Times and broke details of israel's secret nuclear pro-

He now works for Vision Paperbacks and Saturn Publications in Covent Garden,

football tournament. But Mr Morgan said: "We had the scoop. We embarrassed the Government. We

Strict security, page 2

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Indignant printers deny responsibility

By VALERIE ELLIOTT AND DANIEL McGRORY

STAFF threatened with redundancy at the newly privatised Stationery Office were incensed yesterday that they were being identified as a possible source of the Budget

The leak is nevertheless embarrassing for unions who are campaigning against plans by the Stationery Office to cut 900 jobs out of 2,500. Yesterday the company began an internal investigation into the possible source of the leak and to ascertain if all safeguards were carried out in printing and delivering the documents. Management will meet unions today to discuss

restructuring the company. Even without yesterday's Budget leak, the privatisation of Her Majesty's Stationery Office has been marked by controversy. The Government last month reached a £54 million deal with an Electra Fleming consortium, headed by Rupert Pennant-Rea; former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, even though City analysts had estimated the sell-off would make £140 million.

MPs from all parties have also been concerned about see. I don't even tell my wife."

security for official documents and for the continued publication of Hansard, Parliament's official record.

It was only on Monday that staff at London Print Services, part of the Stationery Office that was contracted by the Treasury to produce the Red Book detailing public expendi-ture and the Budget in summary, learnt that 88 out of their 96 jobs were under

Staff at the London Print Services premises, 500 yards from the Labour Party headquarters in Walworth Road, southeast London, had been told not to talk to the media. But some indignantly insisted that they had not leaked material to embarrass their

new owners.

A printer who had worked for the HMSO for 13 years, and who, like his colleagues. shattered by the redundancy news and now we are being

had signed the Official Secrets Act, said: "I and everybody else here abide by those regulations. Morale is already accused of being cheats. We work hard and have never breathed a word of what we

when he said: "There isn't any

evidence to suggest that the

IRA is contemplating any unilateral initiative like that."

Mr Major wrote to Mr

passed on the IRA's terms for

Downing Street. The four-

point plan calls on the Gov-

□ allow Sinn Fein into the

Stormont talks soon after a

ernment to:

ceasefire:

renewed ceasefire to

gramme in the 1980s, was not responding to calls yesterday.

At the Mirror, the jury is out on the Editor's decision not to publish. His critics believe that he wanted to appear responsible after having to make a public apology for his paper's anti-German rhetoric during the Euro 96

sold more copies."

Major resists talks threat from IRA

By Nicholas Watt, Chief Ireland Correspondent

set an "indicative suggestion that terrorism will

JOHN MAJOR is standing firm in the face of threats from the IRA and has rejected a demand from Sinn Fein to be allowed into the Stormont lence when he said that his job talks immediately after any would be made "very, very IRA ceasefire, difficult indeed" if Mr Major rejected his four-point plan. He also played down the prospects of an IRA ceasefire

The Prime Minister is understood to have told John Hume, the leader of the SDLP, that the Government will want cast-iron guarantees from republicans that a renewed IRA ceasefire will last and will not be a tactic.

Gerry Adams, the president Hume after the MP for Foyle of Sinn Fein, said yesterday he feared that the Government would reject his call to be allowed into talks immediately after a ceasefire. He said: The British appear to be poised to reject the proposals put to them. If what we are hearing is accurate then all

timeframe" for the talks so they are doing is postponing that they move to substantive the opportunity for peace." Mr Adams gave a veiled warning of further IRA vioissues quickly:

make clear that terrorist weapons will be dealt with in line with the Mitchell report, which calls for arms to be decommissioned once there is progress in political negotiations:

☐ introduce confidence build-

ing measures, including the release of some terrorist prisoners and reforms to the RUC.

The IRA has endorsed the demands, but is threatening to resume violence in Northern Ireland and on mainland Brit-ain if Mr Major fails to respond positively. Mr Major made clear yesterday that the Government would not be intimidated. He told the Commons: If there is any

bring Sinn Fein to the negotiating table it emphatically will not bring them to the negotialing table." ☐ Gerry Adams is claiming £10.000 damages in a court

action against the RUC. He claims he was held for four hours at a roadblock in Belfast in June,



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Un 150

. Shipping magnate told: cooperate or die

Kidnap victim 'was held for nine days in cupboard'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

was kidnapped by a gang as he parked his car in London and subjected to a nine-day ordeal of sensory deprivation as his jailers demanded a £5 million ransom, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Clicks adition and a second a second and a second a second and a second a second and a second and a second and a second and a second an

George Fraghistas became a target after frequenting casinos in London. He was held in handcuffs in a cubby hole with a mask over his face, plugs taped in his ears, and his ankles bound, was told by his armed jailers "co-operate or die", the court was told. He was freed by police without the ransom being paid. Two Greeks — Constantine

Korkolis, 39, and Thanassis Zografos, 24 - and two Frenchmen — Jean-Marc Mercu, 36, and Djemel Moussaoui, 33 — have denied kidnapping, false imprison-ment and blackmail.

Joanna Korner, QC, for the prosecution, said that Mr. Fraghistas, 43, was unceremoniously bundled into a car hired by his kidnappers on March 24 after he had parked in a car park in Maida Vale,

From there he was taken to a house in Hogan Mews, west London, rented by the two Greek defendants for £600 a

A GREEK shipping magnate make recorded telephone calls to his family, relaying the ransom demand which the court was told was later re duced during his ordeal to \$3 million (ELR million).

The court was told that Mr Fraghistas, a single man, was a Greek national whose family was engaged in a shipping business started by his late father in the late 1950s. He remains its consultant, but after coming to London in 1983 World Carrier London Limited, with a partner.

Miss Korner said the business went through a bad patch in 1994, which necessitated loans from the family of \$2 million, but it became financially sound by this year.

Fraghistas told the court that he was a member of "more than one" casino and that he had tried to curb his gambling habits. He said that at one stage he had been gambling every night, "but then I realised that was not good for your social life and I have cut it down. It is not something that you can cut overnight but it is much better

than it used to be." Mr Fraghistas told the court that his mother, who took over the running of the Greek week, and dumped on a shipping business when his mattress. He was forced to father died, had lent him \$2





million in 1994-95 when his own venture, a shipping agency in London, needed "capitalisation and investment".

Mr Korkolis emerged as a man with various identities. He is generally known as Costas. But for the duration of the kidnap he was known as Petros. Mr Zografos, who came to Britain in 1992 to study, lived at a west London where he met Mr

Miss Korner said that they rented the house in Hogan Mews after telling an estate

agency a story about a sick aunt. Their victim parked his car on the night of his abduction before going on to a dinner party, then realised there was a man behind running after him who was wearing ski-style gloves and a balaclava.

After being pushed against a car he began to struggle, and found he was on the floor face down, at which point he realised that at least three men were involved. He was handcuffed and his ankles taped, and his attackers tried to place a hood over his head. He struggled, and one of the men produced a gun and said: "I will kill you if you keep

screaming."
Mr Fraghistas was thrown into the boot of a hired Rover car, biting the fingers of one assailant as he was abducted. One man got into the boot with him as it was driven off to

Upon arrival he was made to remove his clothes and given a pair of boxer shorts as well as a dressing gown in

out his incarceration. A bucket and later a bottle was granted him in which to urinate but he was also allowed to visit the lavatory. Four days after the kidnapping he was allowed a shower but only after his eyes

were taned. During his ordeal he asked for a sedative to calm his nerves and this was given.

In his cupboard prison he was given an intercom unit and questioned about his financial situation. Asked how much money he had, he said he had £40,000 to £50,000 but

A voice which he subsequently told police was deliberately distorted later told him that the lowest the kidnappers would accept was \$3 million. Mr Fraghistas agreed to call

his office the day after saying under instructions that he had been picked up by a girlfriend and would be out of London for several days. But his office

was suspicious. Police were alerted and officers fitted devices to telephones at the home of his mother. The trial continues.

by uncle, says West daughter

By A Staff Reporter

THE eldest daughter of Frederick West told a court yesterday that she was raped more year period by the serial

killer's younger brother.

John West, 54, is alleged to have raped his niece Anne Marie and another girl in a romwell Street, Gloucester. The attacks were said to have happened in the 1970s when Mr West called at the house on his round as a dustman.

prosecution, told the jury at Bristol Crown Court that the first assault on Anne Marie happened when she was II or 12. She told her mother Rosemary West, who "laughed it off and told her not to be stupid". The younger girl was later raped once, the court was

Anne Marie Davis, 32, has waived her right to anonymity. She said that her uncle visited the house for a cup of tea at lunchtime and at weekends: "He came to the house a lot. He was the only real member of the family on my dad's side who would visit us. He was quite close to dad."

She said that she was raped by a series of men in her early teens. Nigel Pascoe, QC, for Mr West, asked: "You were raped by your uncle over 300 times? Is that really the truth?" She replied: "Yes."

Mr West, from Abbevdale, Gloucester, denies two rane charges and two of indecent assault. The trial continues.

Phantom polisher takes shine off real tennis finals

THE gentlemanly world of real tennis is awash with rumours after the alleged doctoring of the historic Queen's Club court on the eve of the semi-finals of the British Open Championship.

have been applied to a corner of the sloping porch known as the penthouse which runs round three sides of the court: apparently a deliberate ploy to prevent the use of the controversial "boomerang" and "giraffe" services.

The tampering happened on Saturday night just hours before the two semi-finals were due to take place after two games of the first match, between Julian Snow, the British number one, and Lachie Deuchar, the Harbour Club professional who is the foremost exponent of the boomerang serve which is unreturnable when properly

Many within the game see the move as akin to sabotaging Centre Court at Wimbledon. Real termis, thought to have been brought to Britain by Henry VIII, remains firmly elitist, despite attempts to popularise it. There are only about 20 courts in Britain and the number of people who play it barely exceeds 2,000. The ball can strike the walls as well as the floor and the rules are formidable

At the Queen's Club a



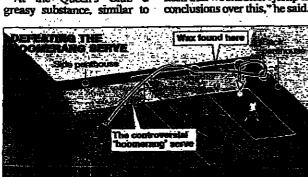
Deuchar: famous for his fierce becomerang shot

wax polish, was found on the floor of the receiver's end beside the corner of the penthouse. Both players com-plained and the match was stopped for 25 minutes while it was cleaned up. Traces of a similar substance were found on the penthouse but efforts to remove it failed.

Serving an accurate boomerang involves hitting the ball from the service end gently on to the side penthouse. After a series of deflec-tions, the ball drops straight down the back wall and is impossible to play.

The club has begun an

inquiry. Brigadier Andrew Myrtle, chief executive of the game's governing body, played down the row. "I'm keen that we shouldn't jump to conclusions over this," he said.



PR chief 'acted as corporate assassin'

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A FORMER public relations manager for British Airways was a "corporate assassin" who spent his career with the airline spreading slick lies and poison to destroy its rivals, the

yesterday. Brian Basham was consis-tently dishonourable and disreputable in his work for the airline during its commercial battle with Virgin Atlantic, a libel jury was told. Mr Basham, 52, is suing for

damages over claims in the book Dirty Tricks: British Airways' Secret War against Virgin Atlantic that he was a liar who masterminded a smear campaign against Vir-gin and its head Richard Branson. He claims 11 passages in the book wrongly portray him as a "professional dissembler" who knowingly sold untrue stories about Virgin to the press. But on the second day of the hearing, Ronald Thwaites, QC, representing the book's author Martyn Gregory and publishers Little, Brown and Company (UK) Ltd. said that Mr Basham had not been wronged but exposed by hard evidence and good investigative journalism. Mr Thwaites said: "Mr Basham was spreading poison of a kind

that left no trace, that was capable of lethal consequences

if left to run unchecked. He

was, after all, the corporate assassin who killed off his

client's rivals if he could and was not particular about the methods he employed." Patrick Milmo, QC, for Mr Basham, had said that Dirty Tricks was a work of fiction which gave a "one-sided, partial and embroidered account" of the rivalry between the two

Mr Gregory and Little, Brown deny libel, pleading justification. The case

ansure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common do and our Posterity, At ordain and establish this Constitu

Yacht thought U-boat was buoy

Grid admitted failing to keep a proper lookout on his yacht before it rammed a German submarine, causing an estimated £20,000 of damage. Wob Gerretsen, 54, also admitted failing to take action

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A DIRECTOR of National to avoid the crash between his 56ft yacht and the 160ft U22 craft. The accident happened at the mouth of Portsmouth harbour when the helmswoman, Clare Amsworth, 19. tried to steer round the

Mr Gerreisen's crew could see only the top of the U-boat and in the poor light thought that it was a buoy. He injured his arm in the collision but his yacht, Harvest, escaped serious damage and his crew of six were not hurt. The German Government said that the submarine had suffered

about £20,000 damage to electronic components. Mr Gerreisen, a Dutchman who is National Grid's business development director, is being prosecuted by the Ministry of Defence because he was master of the yacht. He admitted two charges at Portsmouth Magistrates' Court but denied failing to observe regulations designed to prevent collision at sea and failing to navigate with care and caution. He also pleaded not guilty to failing to take early action to keep clear of another

The case was adjourned until December 6 and Mr Gerretsen, of Chobham, Surrey, was released on unconditional bail. He could also face a private action for compensation by the German Government

Mr Gerretsen said after the crash in May that the submarine had not been properly lit. The U-boat tower was about 10ft above the waterline, he added. "Visibility was very poor and the crew saw a black object they didn't recognise."

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Parishes face £27m bill for new pension fund for vicars

REPORTS BY RUTH GLEDHILL RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

to be asked for £27 million a year to pay vicars' pensions under a measure agreed by the General Synod yesterday.

A new pension fund is to be set up in the wake of the £800 million property losses in the late 1980s by the Church Commissioners, who manage the Church of England's £2.7 billion assets. Pension liabilities of £77 million a year. which have more than doubled in a decade, will continue to be paid out of the Church's

The plans, which are to go before Parliament for approval before the general election, envisage that the fund will be launched in 1998. For the first time the 11,000 retired clergy outnumber the 10,500 in service, and the fund is considered essential if clergy of the future are to have their pen-

sions paid. The new commitment will amount to about 500 a week for every churchgoer, on top of the £3.67 they already give on costs, however, because some parishes, particularly those in poor areas, already struggle to pay the increased demands for clergy stipends made during the past few years.

The Archbishop of Canterbury. Dr George Carey, recently appealed for extra funding to come from the State for church buildings, saying that parishes were already overburdened by the cost of

Defending the proposals, Sir Michael Colman, First Church Estates Commissioner, who was brought in to resolve the Church's financial problems, said: "I would urge synod members to remember where we started three years ago. The Church has adjusted to higher payments since 1988. It has faced up to the realities of the situation.

Initial plans to transfer £1.3 billion, half of the Church's assets, to the new pension fund have been shelved after MPs complained that the Church was in effect planning

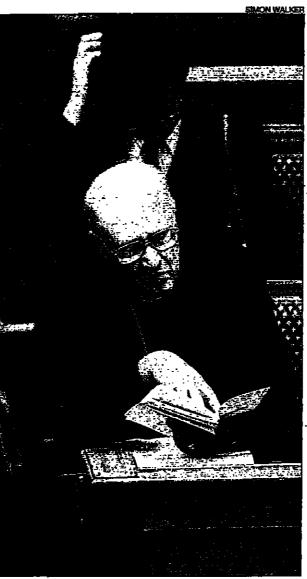
ANGLICAN worshippers are meet a greater share of the to sell off the family silver. Other proposals, including cutting the number of Church Commissioners from 95 to 15, have also been amended. It is now envisaged that there will be 30 commissioners to manage the Church's assets.

Timothy Hind, of Wells. Somerset, said: "Until recently, the cost of pensions was paid by the departed church. This is not an option for the future. The living church has to pay for its mission."

Presenting the proposals to

the synod in Westminster, the Right Rev Barry Rogerson.

Bishop of Bristol, said it was necessary to ensure that clergy felt secure in the knowledge that their pensions would be paid. Bishop Rogerson addressed the problem of what would happen if parishes failed to provide the money: "It is assumed that, if payments are not made, then it becomes the responsibility of the Church of England as a whole so to order our common life that we may support each



Dr George Carey at the General Synod yesterday

Church finds just cause against marriage banns

THE tradition of reading the banns of a couple about to be married in the Church of England could soon end after the General Synod decided yesterday to find an alternative.

In a 15-minute debate that may sweep away 800 years of tradition, a speaker said that the banns were a "medieval anachronism" and there was a need to give marriage a more human face. The banns, when the cong-

regation are asked to declare if they know of any "just cause or impediment" why the couple may not be joined together, are read three times before the wedding.

Canon Richard Hanford, Vicar of Ewell, Surrey, said: "The Church of England should not be seen to be defender of the quaint." Introducing a private member's motion to obviate the need" for banns of marriage, he

were read in church had never darkened its doors.

"My experience has taught me that when couples hear about banns and fees and form-filling and trips to other churches, so people they don't know can nod sagely and see no cause or impediment why Darren and Tracey should not get married, they are am-azed," he said. "It is as if the church is

He criticised the "curious obsession" with legal impediments to marriage, and said the banns dated from the medieval Church's view of "consanguinity, clandestinity and the nature of consent". Mr Hanford added: "In 30 years as a parson, I have never once heard any objection to the marriage

Anglicans 'must fight hardcore of racism'

THE racism which was a feature of the post-war Church' of England has declined, but there is still a hard core of resistance which proclaims: We have no black people here, there is no problem," the General Synod was told.

Dr John Sentamu, Bishop of Stepney and a former Ugan-dan judge, said such attitudes showed the Church still had "considerable ground to cov-er" in addressing racism within its ranks. Describing how thousands of Anglican immigrants, especially from the Caribbean, were "frozen out" of the Church when they arrived here after the Second World War, he said the Church was now at the fore in challenging racism.

Dr Sentamu, opening the debate on the report "The Passing Winter", which describes how different dioceses are tackling racism, said racial harmony was not simply the absence of conflict. Understanding and justice could set people free to make their own distinctive contribution to our common life".

The Ven Kenneth Gibbons. Archdeacon of Lancaster, pleaded for help for those parishes in the white high-lands", where worshippers rarely came into contact with people from other ethnic groups. There are places where there are few black

faces to be seen," he said. But Canon David Gillett, of Bristol, said: "You cannot watch television and be unaware of the issues of racism and ethnic diversity that are bombarding us, day in and day out." Every individual had to determine whether their reaction to these images was "Christ-like or demonic".

Briton 'pursued by Cambodian captors'

The Briton captured in Cambodia by Khmer Rouge guerrillas eight months ago is being pursued by hardliners with orders to kill him. Prince Norodom Ranariddh. Cambodia's Prime Minister, said in Phnom Penh last night. However, Prince Ranariddh said that Christopher Howes, 36, a mine-clearing expert from Bristol who is believed to have escaped with a group of defecting guerrillas, would be released within a few days despite the threat. He would be flying to the north of the country to supervise the operation. The Foreign Office welcomed the prince's comments cautiously but said it had no further information.

Rethink on Crime Bill

The Government is redrafting its Crime (Sentences) Bill after criticism that up to 30,000 prisoners could end up serving less time in jail than at present. The move came as the Howard League said that the prison population had risen by more than a third to 58.217 since Michael Howard became Home Secretary three years ago.

Four killed in crash

An underage driver, recently diagnosed as an epileptic, and three passengers died when their car ploughed into a wall. Christopher Darby, 16, of Nuneaton, lost control on the B4114 Lutterworth Road outside Nuneaton. Warwickshire. He and Gavin Knights, 20, Emma McGee and Claire Hughes, both 16, died instantly. Two others were injured.

Child pornography case

A father of two who used computers at Newcastle University to collect child pornography from the Internet has been fined £1,000. Graham Warren, 34, a researcher of Blyth, Northumberland, admitted ten specimen charges at Newcastle Magistrates' Court of possessing indecent photographs of children.

Baby mauled by dog

A two-week-old boy was recovering in hospital last night after he was mauled by the family dog. Brandon Rouse was bitten on the head after the dog leapt into his pram at his home in Bean, Kent, on Monday night. The child's father and aunt pulled the animal away from the child and yesterday it was to be destroyed.

Cluedo mystery solved

The hunt for the inventor of the murder mystery game Cluedo is over. Anthony Pratt, who devised the game in 1948, died two years ago and is in Bromsgrove Cemetery, Birmingham. "Unfortunately Mr Pratt did not leave a wife or children," makers Waddingtons said. "He died of natural causes, aged 89. There were no suspicious circumstances."

Dead fireman honoured

The widow of an off-duty fireman who died trying to rescue a young girl from a frozen lake was presented with a posthumous George Medal by the Queen. Michael Mee, 48, right, and Jack Crawshaw, 51, a retired gro-Pattison, 11, at Hemsworth Water Park, near Pontefract, west Yorkshire, last December. The girl had fallen in after following a dog. Mr Mee and Mr Crawshaw, whose family also received a George Med



the ice collapsed. All three drowned. Elizabeth Mee said: "We never expected to be Buckingham Palace. I see this as a new beginning - as I know Michael would have done." Since 1977, when it was decided the George Medal could be awarded posthumously. there have been only 18 such awards. The medal for civilian gallantry is second only to the George Cross.

Legal claims for job stress likely to rise | Mock L-test aims to

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BY FRANCES GIBB

LAWYERS are predicting a big rise in claims against employers for stress and harassment on the strength of a survey reporting widespread builying at work.

The research findings, based on a survey of 1,000 adults, are expected to show witnessed bullying or harass- are pursuing claims of stress-

ment, and as many as one in two has experienced it personally in one form or other.

The findings will be released at a conference on Friday in London organised by the Institute of Personnel and Development.

Jill Earnshaw, lecturer in employment law at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Techology, said

more employees are being subjected to acute stress at work. In the retail sector, for instance, people working in shops face violent attacks, and in building societies and banks, hold-ups. Then in the public sector, people are increasingly at risk from attacks

by mental patients." She said that two key court

recent ruling that policemen who helped at the ground at the Hillsborough stadium disaster were entitled to damages, and the case in which a social worker was paid £175,000 by Northumberland County Council after he had a nervous breakdown.

No other cases have yet reached a High Court ruling way for stress claims based on believed to be in the pipeline.

drive up pass rate

By Jonathan Prynn, transport correspondent

NERVOUS learner drivers are to be offered the chance to sit a mock test with a government examiner to help them to overcome their fears.

Learners will pay about £35 for the dummy test, to be the real thing. It will be followed by a briefing by the examiner on the candidate's strengths and weaknesses, including those that would have made him or her fail.

However, the proposed cheme, which is likely to be introduced on a pilot basis in the Midlands in February or March, was condemned by the British School of Motoring. Richard Glover, its managing director, said he was horrified by the plan from the Department of Transport's Driving Standard Agency

(DSA) and was considering legal action. The company already offers its own mock The DSA is a testing organ-

isation and a mock test is not a test, it is training and assessment. For the DSA to set itself up in competition with instructors is going to cause very serious problems," Mr Glover Bernard Herdan, the chief executive of the DSA, said only a handful of driving

But the scheme would go ahead only with the approval of the instructing industry after consultation.

Mr Herdan said that a similar pilot scheme in Holland had lifted the first-time pass rate from about 45 per

cent to 60 per cent.

schools offered mock tests.

Train driver not warned of blocked line ahead

By Paul Wilkinson

POOR communications pre vented railway staff from warning a driver that the track ahead was blocked by a derailed train, an inquest jury was told yesterday.

By the time he saw the

obstruction it was too late and his train ploughed into the wrecked carriages, killing Stuart Wilson, the conductor. Mr Wilson, 47, from Leeds, was hailed afterwards for giving his life to ensure that his passengers had escaped before the oncoming train

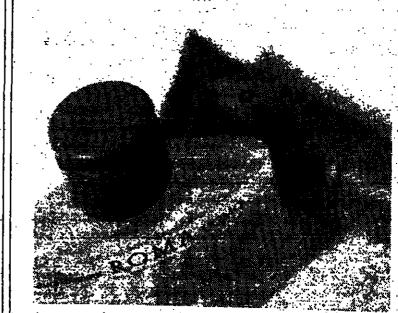
The inquest in Carlisle was told that Mr Wilson was on a two-car service from Carlisle to Leeds in January last year. Flooding forced it to turn back near Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria, but it was derailed by a landslide as it swapped tracks and came to rest straddling both lines.

John Turner, the driver, activated an emergency button in his cab linked to controllers in Crewe but the second train had already left Kirkby Stephen and there was no way to contact it. Mr Turner said: "The weather was terrible, there was heavy rain and it was very black. My visibility was poor. I never saw the landslide. I just hit it. I was probably doing 60mph

Gavin Mountain, the other driver, said that when hearrived at Kirkby Stephen no one had warned him about flooding ahead. "All of the signals were in a clear pos-ition and I had to proceed as

The inquest continues.

SCENTS OF WONDER



ROMA UOMO BY LAURA BIAGIOTTI

Roma Uomo by Laura Biagiotti is a warm, moody, mascaline fragrance that reflects the art and culture of Rome, the eternal city. Exclusive to Harrods, it is a fragrance as unforgettable as the man who wears it. This Christmas, a gift of a soothing 75ml Aftershave Balm containing vitamin E is yours when you purchase the 125ml Eau de Toilette Spray, £39, from the Men's Grooming Room, while stocks last.



Patients wait as hospitals struggle to balance books

Hay USO

SIGNS of increasing pressure ing hysteractomy and inser-on the NHS emerged yester—tion of ear grommets, which it day in frantic manoeuvring by says are of variable benefit— health authorities and hospi—Local doctors claimed the cuts rais to balance their books.

d by ptors

Case

Houred

Documents seen by The Times show, that in West Surrey, the local health authority is planning to cut eight common operations by 40 per cent to save El million, and a hospital in south London is "The Times, proposes cutting juggling its waiting lists to provision of eight surgical maximise its income.

The measures are the latest indication of the difficulties Thames. facing the NHS, which is struggling with its tightest financial settlement for a decade. Many health authorities are overspent and some have postponed all non-urgent sur-gery until the next financial

West Surrey Health Authority is to impose big reductions. threatened the principle of a

The health authority is facing an £11 million overspend this year. A paper drawn up for the authority by the Director of Public Health, seen by procedures to 60 per cent of the average in South West

As well as grommets, which are used to treat glue ear, and hysterectomies, the list includes operations on adenoids, tonsils, haemorrhoids and varicose veins, circumcision and endoscopies (internal investigation of the gut).

 A ninth procedure, vasectomy, should be withdrawn altogether from availability on breach of guidance issued by the Health Department earli-

Dr Alan Close, a GP fundholder in Woking, said cutting procedures such as contentious. "It will hit the working classes who have hearing problems and then develop educational problems. It undermines the principle of a universal NHS," he said.

By imposing the reductions across the hoard, the health authority had hoped to avoid charges that it was creating a two-tier service. A spokesman for the authority said the size of the reduction and the operations affected have still to be agreed by the full health authority. He said: "The difficulty with many of these procedures is that it is impos-

who will and who will not benefit."

In south London, an NHS trust has begun shuffling patients on its waiting list to save money. A memo to surgeons at St Helier Trust says the hospital has treated too many patients from some health authorities and not enough from others. It proposes juggling appointments to ensure more of the outpatients treated come from authorities that have not overspent their budgets.

The memo says that up to one in five appointment slots urgent patients from "selected purchasers" who will get speedier treatment.

The Merton and Sutton Community Health Council said the move prioritised patients on the basis of money



Wimbledon's No 1 Court to a new venue. It will take three days to dig up the grass surface in preparation for the demolition of the arena, which is to be replaced by an 11,500 capacity stadium. Although the arena has reached the end of its life after 72 years, the grass will continue to play host to top-class tennis. Tomorrow it is due to be bundled up and taken by lorry to Eastbourne, East Sussex, where it

tennis centre's main court. A spokesman for Wimbledon said: "We wanted the turf to remain in Britain and if it had been sold at auction it could have gone to a private bidder from abroad." The £100,000 cost of buying and moving the turf, as well as purchasing some of the seats and memorabilia from the court, is being met by the Lawn Tennis Association. Direct Line Insurance and Eastbourne council. The council said: "Eastbourne is proud to



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Doubt cast on forecast of CJD deaths

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

AND NIGEL HAWKES

AN EXPERT on infectious diseases cast doubt yesterday on predictions that hundreds of people will die every year from the new strain of CJD, the condition linked to eating contaminated beef,

The forecasts of the likely death toll' from the human form of "mad cow" disease are contained in a paper submitted to The Lancet by scientists at the National CJD Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh. The journal said yesterday that the paper has been circulated for peer review and no

decision has yet been taken to publish. It

refused to discuss the paper's findings.
Professor Roy Anderson, of the
Wellcome Trust Centre for the Epidemiology of Infectious Disease at Oxford University, said it was impossible to extrapolate forwards when the incubation period of the new strain of CJD was unknown and there had been only 14 confirmed cases so far. "My own view is that it is very difficult to say anything sensible scientifically about this issue at

present," he said.
Professor Anderson also said that the Government's cull of cattle over 30

months old could eradicate BSE by mid-1998, three years earlier than previously predicted. He estimated that about only 150 animals under that age were still carrying the disease.

The Department of Health said officials had not yet seen the paper. "We recognise the need to try to make predictions, but at this stage any forecasts must be viewed with extreme cantion," a spokesman said. Scientists generally agree that the risk from infected beef peaked in 1988-89 when the number of cattle incubating the disease was highest and the most infective

parts were still going into human food.

Man dies in food poison outbreak

AN 80-year-old man has died from an outbreak of food poisoning that has hospitalised 85 people. The unnamed man, who contracted E. coll 0157, died in Monklands District Hospital, Laidirkshire

Health Board said. break have centred on cooked, 0157-H7 is one of the most Wishaw. Lanarkshire bust poisoning but is so rare in the sources have not been this country that even the railed out Dr Sayed Alimed. most hypochiondriacal of consultant in public health medicine at the health board, said that 85 people had shown symptoms consistent with infection from the bacteria. Of

those 68 are adults.

Dr Ahmed said that nine adults and one child were giving cause for concern. At present. 40 people are being treated in hospital and of these 33 are adults. He also confirmed that one child, believed to be a girl aged seven, is stable in a Glasgow hospital of the country. In some Japawhere she is undergoing dialy-

Rare but deadly gut infection



Investigations into the run- INFECTION with E. coli untouchable, so that the

three notorious outbreaks of E. coli 0157 that have attracted attention. In Japan, slovenly 'attitudes to hygiene in whole-

people need not worry about it. Those who are not put off cating beef by BSE are unlikely to reject under-done steak on account of such an uncom-This year there have been

sale butchery caused an epidemic that threatened to close the schools over a large area nese communities to be a butcher is to be virtually

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Clubbed to Death,

or Shot and Left

to Die in Agony.

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last spring over 268,000 harp and hooded seals were killed in Canada. Next spring, some

Canadians want to kill up to 400,000**. About

three quarters of these are likely to be baby seal pups. Days or weeks old. A cull of grey seals has

shot. Sadiy, many don't die after the first blow or.

buffet. Recent evidence indicates some will be skinned alive for their coats. Many more will be wounded and left

to die a slow and agonizing death under the ice.

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S.O.S. Sign On for Seals - add your name to

All of these animals will be clubbed to death or

also been recommended.

people who enter the trade are calibre, have little self-respect and are poor pupils when it comes to learning about pub-

seven American states contracted E. coli 0157 as a result of drinking contaminated unpasteurised apple juice. The outbreak in Scotland is

similar in size to the American incident but the cases are concentrated in a small area. Suspicion has been cast on cooked meats served at various functions in the district. The butcher whose premises are suspected of harbouring the organism is, unlike his Japanese counterparis, a highly respected man in the community and admired for both the standard of his meat and the care he takes to meet his customers' needs.

All animal guts, including those of humans, are teeming with E. coli. Most strains are compatible with health and perform a useful function. Every country, and every dis-trict within it, has its local types of E. coli and travellers' iarrhoea occurs when a tourist is suddenly exposed to an alien strain of the organism.

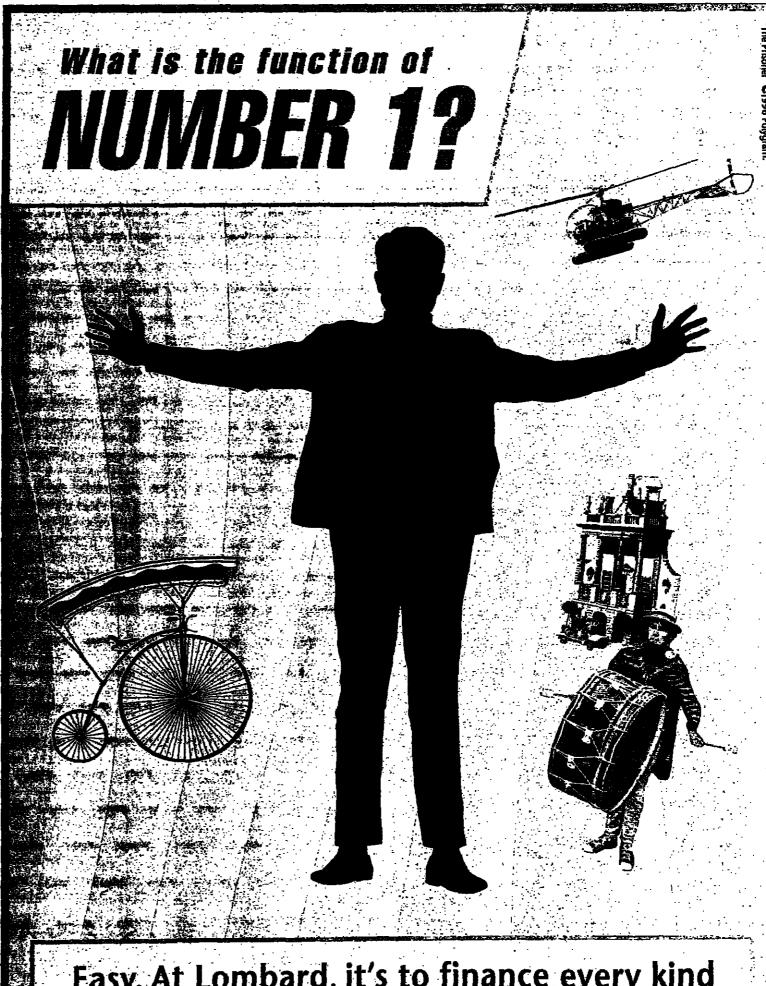
Some types of E. coli are pathogenic and can cause gastroenteritis, and there are a few serotypes, of which E. coli 0157 is the most common, that cause haemorrhagic col-itis, a bloody diarrhoea. The patients in Scotland are now suffering from haemorrhagic eolitis caused by infection with E. coli 0157. Usually about 24 hours after infection the patient develops severe abdominal pain and profuse diarrhoea. Much blood is lost, The patient's temperature

rises to 103F. In the early stages of the disease a certain number of elderly, or very young, pa-tients will succumb to the infection. Others, about 5 per cent, will in the second week after infection develop haemolytic uraemia syndrome (HUS) or thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura which are two related, dread-

ed complications of haemorrhagic colitis. Patients with those complications are liable to suffer from sudden breakdown of their red blood cells and acute kidney failure.

In HUS most younger pa-tients will recover, provided that renal dialysis is available, but the elderly are at greater risk. In the American outbreak caused by the apple juice, three patients developed HUS, of whom one died. If women develop HUS when pregnant they are unlikely to recover renal function.

> Dr Thomas STUTTAFORD



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temporary or part time. No wonder more than half the working population lives in fear of redundancy. Yesterday Kenneth Clarke attempted to

the public service union.

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MoD to pay £6m damages for radioactive leak



Aldermaston: radioactive waste spread after 1989 storm

By MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

مكنا من الاجل

THE Blue Circle industrial group was awarded £6 million in damages against the Ministry of Defence yesterday for radioactive contamination of its land by the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston.

Mr Justice Carnwath ordered the damages under the 1965 Nuclear instaliations Act, which also imposes strict liability for personal injury caused by radioactive materials which escape from a site". The Ministry, which will have to pay the £500,000 costs of the four-day High Court hearing, said that it was considering an appeal.

with offices and a 34-bedroom conference centre next to the Atomic Weapons Establishment, which designs and develops nuclear warheads. High levels of plutonium and uranium were found after ponds at the establishment flooded marshes and a lake on Blue Circle's estate during a storm in 1989. Antony Edwards-Stuart, for Blue

soil that was contaminated with plutonium 1,000 times above normal background levels had been excavated from the estate. The contamination continued, however, and had halted sale of the property and discouraged customers.

Circle, said that 1,000 cubic metres of

Mr Edwards-Stuart said that the establishment's ponds had accumu-

which was washed down a stream during the storm on to Blue Circle's Aldermaston Court Estate. The Atomic Weapons Establishment carried out a survey after the flood and found alpha- and beta-radiating plu-tonium and uranium, the High Court was told. However, details of the contamination were not disclosed by the Ministry until 312 years after the flood, when Blue Circle was trying to

In his judgment, Mr Justice Carnwath said that the Ministry had

Systems, found out about the con-

radioactive material from the site but had denied liability for any further costs or for the effect of the incident on the sale or value of the property.

He concluded that there was a 75 per cent chance that the sale would have gone ahead at the agreed terms if the land had not been contaminated. "I also have no doubt that the sale was aborted because of the 1989 incident and its aftermath," the judge

close the sale of the estate for £10 million. The sale fell through Blue Circle bought the site in 1981 when the purchaser, Sun Microto build corporate headquarters after satisfying itself that an experimental tamination. The estate has remained nuclear reactor, built close to the ornamental lake, had not led to an escape of radioactivity. The estate was put on the market when a slump

buyers were put off by publicity over the links between leukaemia and nuclear establishments such as the Atomic Weapons Establishment near by. Mr Justice Carnwath said.

An Ministry spokesman said that the contamination had been "extremely low level" and had been "cleared up to the satisfaction of the regulatory bodies and Blue Circle". The spokesman said steps had been taken to revise the water-course routes to prevent any repetition of the 1989 incident

The establishment is still a Ministry of Defence site but it has been managed since 1993 by a private Technology and Brown and Root.

ITV to reunite naval families live on air as festive showpiece

ITV is to use a formula pioneered by BBC Radio in Family Favourites as the centrepiece of its Christmas Day schedule: putting service families in touch over the

Anthea Turner will help to reunite naval families around the world live on air as resenter of a broadcast from HMS Belfast, moored on the Thames Viewers will return to the floating studio throughout the day where Turner and Simon Weston. the Falklands veteran, will be hosting a party.

ITV executives, announce ing their Christmas schedules yesterday on HMS Belfast, argued that the programme was less a return to an idea discarded by the BBC as outof-date than an exciting break

with television tradition. ITV and BBC are lining up for another round in the war of the soap operas this Christ-mas with large helpings of Coronation Street and East-Enders. Last year Alan Yentob, the BBCl controller, had to reschedule EastEnders at the last minute when ITV scheduled Coronation Street to compete with its rival in the

it is expected to centre on a his grumpy neighbour, play-special edition of Only Fools ed by Walter Matthau. is expected to centre on a and Horses and the Steven Spielberg blockbuster Juras

The evening film on ITV will be the Merchant Ivory classic The Remains of the Day, starring Emma Thompson and Sir Anthony Hopkins as a butler who grows disenchaoted with his aristocratic master.

Among the stars appearin over the holiday period will be Tina Turner, Tom Jones and the comedian Lee Evans. For children there is an adaptation of E. Nesbit's Treasure Seekers, and Dennis, a film comedy about a mischievous six-year-old and



There are Christmas Eve specials of The Bill and Emmerdale, and Gloria Hunniford will introduce a Christmas Eve service from cental London's Hinde Street Methodist church.

Boxing Day sees more children's entertainment, with Willows in Winter, an animated film that is a seguel to last Christmas's The Wind in the Willows, and an adaptation of Frances Hodgson Burnett's The Secret Garden, starring Maggie Smith.

Marcus Plantin, ITV network director, said: "Our schedule is packed with more favourite programmes and stars than ever before and on Christmas Day itself there's a major break with tradition."

The BBC, usually the winner in the ratings war, played down the prospect of a estive battle between East-Enders and a Coronation Street. A spokesman said: "Everybody has respect for the various drama serials. At the moment EastEnders is coming out on too because of the quality and strength of its story lines. It does not detract Street is a very fine programme. We don't look upon it as a ratings war.



Christmas presence: Coronation Street's Angela Griffin, Gladiator Vogue, Anthea Turner, and Gladiator Panther

British TV triumphs at Emmys

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

BRITISH programmes dominated the International Emmys, winning four of the six categories in the television equivalent of the Oscars.

Winners included Wallace and Gromit, and The House, the "fly-in-thewings" BBC documentary about the were privy even to the sacking of an

Wallace and Gromit, the Oscar-win-

ning plasticine models created by Nick Park of Bristol, won in the wide-ranging Popular Arts category - a rare triumph for an animated film. The triumph at Monday night's ceremony in New York made a happy return to the city for the characters and Michael Rose, the film's

the boot of a Manhattan taxi. They returned the following day by the driver.

A Newsround Extra report on the BBC about children in Bosnia, and Wise Up,

producer. Last month the models went

missing when their creator left them in

which examined children's views of the world, also won Emmys.

Michael Waldman, director of The House, said that receiving the prize was rather like taking a curtain call at the Royal Opera House ... in that you sort of don't expect it, but you hope for it". The programme; which included glimpses of President Clinton admiring the elastic has been sold to the Public Broadcasting System in America and will be shown

Newcastle's **Toon Army** marches on its stomach

By Paul WILKINSON

THERE was a time when eating at a soccer ground meant a meat pie of doubtful provenance, a Wagon Wheel and a mug of steaming Bovril.

Today, at least for the Toon Army on Tyneside, it is as likely to be spicy chicken sausages with calvados sauce or seared scallops with butter beans and lentils, washed down with an Australian

The Magpie Room at Newcastle United's ground at St James' Park has become the first soccer stadium restaurant to appear in the Which? Good Food Guide. And just as the players on the pitch are bidding for Premiership honours this season, John Blackutive chef, is planning his own top-of-the-table challenge for a coveted star in the Michelin

Mr Blackmore, 40, took over catering at the ground last year after closing Blackmore's in Alnwick, Northumberland, which had entries in both the Michelin and the Good Food Guide.

The 146-seat restaurant on the sixth floor of the Gallowgate stand is open to the public during the week but reserved for corporate hospitality on match days. It is operated by Courliands, part of the Cameron Hall group, run by Sir John Hall, the club

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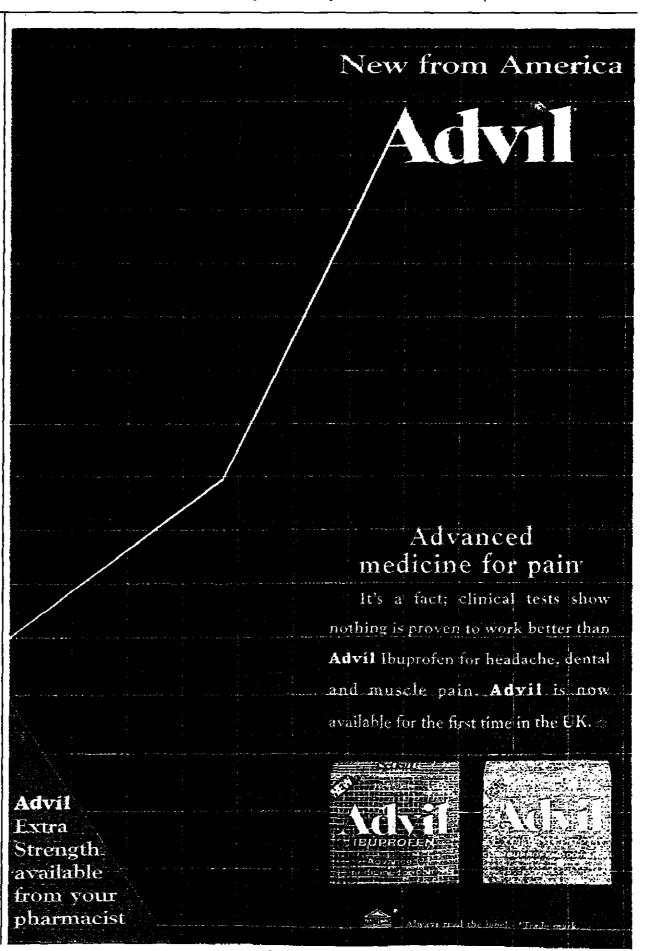
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Defiant strikers tighten noose around capital with blockade of main Paris fuel depot

France set to meet drivers' demands as dispute spreads

THE embattled French Government offered to help meet the demands of striking French lorry drivers yesterday as a paralysing nine-day dispute spread to other industries and protesters tightened the noose on Paris by blockading the city's largest fuel depot.

Yet another round of allnight negotiations between the lorry drivers' unions and haulage bosses ended in stalemate and leaders of allied unions called for a general protest today and threatened to extend the stoppages to rail and air transport.

Fearing a mass disruption similar to last year's 24-day transport strike, the Government said it was ready to help to end the dispute by aiding early retirement for drivers and cutting employers' payroll

The lorry drivers are demanding higher wages. shorter working hours and retirement at 55 rather than 60, but employers say they cannot begin to meet those demands without a reduction in the heavy social charges levied by the state.

Roger Cros, the government-appointed mediator, claimed that "significant progress" had been made on agreeing changes to sick leave, expenses and other issues, but the drivers' unions insisted their central demands had not been met. The failure of negotiations and fears of a government cave-in pushed the franc to below 3_39 to the mark.

"It is in nobody's interest to extend the dispute to other sectors. The state is ready to take responsibility, in particular by facilitating an agreement on retirement and by contributing to payroll charges." Alain Lamassoure, the government spokesman,

But buoyed by public sympathy and the support of fellow unions, the lorry drivers are pressing demands for wage rises as their blockades roads, ports, border

crossings and fuel depots grow tighter by the hour. At dawn yesterday the strikers used two tanker-lorries to block access to the Grigny fuel

depot south of Paris. Grigny supplies more than 90 per cent of fuel to the capital's huge hypermarkets. as well as petrol for ambulances, police vehicles and fire trucks. The move was a calculated act of defiance by strikers, since Grigny is also the depot used by the military. which might eventually be brought in to end the dispute.

The depot supplies 1.5 mil-lion gallons of petrol to the Paris region every day and by yesterday morning more than 50 tankers were lined up out-side the gates. Police did not intervene to remove the blockade, but officials gave a warning that if the depot was sealed off for more than two days, Paris would face serious fuel

More than 180 key roads were wholly or partially blocked by the drivers yesterday, while blockades of Calais and Boulogne remained in force. The motorway between Lyons and Grenoble was blocked, causing ten-mile tail-backs, and the city of Clermont-Ferrand was effectively cut off by the dispute.

With dozens of fuel depots sealed in southern and west-

Copenhagen: A blockade by Danish lorry drivers over government plans to cut their overseas subsistence allowances is affecting the country's £52 million trade in Christmas

The blockade is nothing short of a catastrophe for our business," a spokesman for Denmark's Christmas Tree Growers' Association said yesterday. About 600 lorries carrying the trees have been stuck in German border since the weekend. (Reuter)

ern France, local officials began rationing petrol as scores of petrol stations ran

Road freight shipments from the Mediterranean to the Channel remained at a virtual western ports began to rot on the quays and a number of factories, including the Re-nault plant in Doual, have stopped work through lack of spare parts.

Talks were due to resume last night but as the strike bites into the economy allied unions have rallied around the drivers. The truckers must make themselves heard a bit more so that the bosses and the Government make more concessions," Alain Renault, of the Communist-led CGT union, said.

The CGT has called for a "day of action" across the country today, and the powerful Force Ouvrière union said it would extend the industrial action to other transport sectors unless an agreement was reached by last night. The CGT and FO spearheaded last

year's crippling strikes.

Nicole Notat, head of the moderate CFDT union, the largest in France, issued "a final appeal for reason on the part of employers".

The five major rail unions called on members to support the strikes "by all appropriate means". France's state-owned gas and electric utilities announced a 24-hour strike for December 3 and Air France and other French airlines will launch a two-day strike from today.

The Government, deeply unpopular due to austerity policies aimed at qualifying for European monetary union, has been further destabilised by the dispute.

Despite mounting rumours of a Cabinet shake-up to try to breathe new life into the Government, M. Lamassoure reshuffle is not on the agen-



A gendarme tries to stop a British driver from punching a striking French lorry driver at Calais yesterday. The nine-day transport dispute has left thousands of frustrated British lorry drivers stranded in France

Tesco starts to airlift food supplies

BY JOANNA BALE AND ROBIN YOUNG

BRITISH supermarkets were yesterday busy making plans to replace thousands of tonnes of food stuck because of the French lorry drivers dispute. Tesco began flying fresh fruit and vegetables into Britain

during the afternoon. Peter Durose, the supermarket chain's produce buy-er, said the suppliers and freight costs. He added: "At this time of year we 'source' a

lot of fresh salads from Spain. Our suppliers are having difficulty getting their trucks through the blockade."

Other supermarket chains, though, said that air freight was "hideously expensive". Asda said: "We could only consider it is a very last Sainsbury said: "We are

experiencing any major short-Where necessary, we will airlift products."

Safeway said it was experiencing problems transporting some citrus fruit and other produce from Spain and was looking at alternative transport arrangements.

The Somerfield chain said: This is the worst time of year that this could happen. At this season more than 40 per cent of our fresh food supplies are imported from or through France, 100 lorry loads a week for Somerfield alone. Already our own-label mandarins are blocked in Bilbao and the supplier has been told it would take two weeks to bring them by sea, which is longer than their shelf life. We are having to 're-source' the product."

The products most likely to be affected by the blockade are those from France itself, including apples, pears, but-ter, cheese, yoghurt and extra wines for Christmas. Alternative sources exist in most cases. "We may be selling Brie from Somerset and wine from Spain, Portugal or the New World, "Somerfield said, but we will make sure no one goes short."

John Major was heavily criticised by a hauliers' organ-isation yesterday for failing to

intervene in the dispute. Adam Wurf, for the Freight Transport Association which represents half of Britain's hauliers, said: "This is a catastrophe for many hauliers, especially the one-man outfits. Many have been stuck in France for up to nine days. We need a solution to the dispute immediately and we

at more st "It amazes us that no state-

MORE FOREIGN NEWS. PAGE 21

ment has come from Mr Major and that there is no sign that he has been in touch with the French Prime Minis-

ter, Alain Juppé."
The Freight Transport Association also warned drivers that it was "too dangerous" to try to break the blockade, predicting violent reaction from French strikers and police officers.

Mr Wurf said that the dispute had already cost his members £4 million.

British firms are having to pay under penalties for late deliveries, re-route lorries through The Netherlands and Belgium, hire extra vehicles to replace those caught in the blockade and pay to use other European countries roads. This is on top of the £150-aday wages and expenses for stranded drivers.

Two drivers broke through the blockade in Calais on Monday. One, Tony Dixon from the Irish Republic, was stopped by French police who said they would arrest anyone breaking the protest. Later a second lorry, with a British driver, also broke through, with police allowing its driver and Mr Dixon onto a Doverbound ferry.

There was also a dispute between one British lorry driver and a French union official as British drivers were blockaded while French driv-Dover-bound ferry. French police officers also threatened British drivers with teargas for trying to stop cars from getting onto ferries in Calais

as a protest against the strike. With the blockade spreading to Calais earlier this week, all freight traffic has been rerouted via Zeebrugge. Crossing times are longer, four hours to the Belgian port instead of one and a half to Calais, so hundreds of lorries have been delayed on the English side of the Channel, causing long queues yester-day on roads into Dover.

The police said: "All truck stops are full, lorries are being stacked on the A20 and there are tailbacks on the M20 and other approach roads."

At one stage, more than 80 lorries snaked up Jubilee Way, the approach to the Charmel's busiest port. Most of the drivers at Dover were resigned to the delays: their main complaint was over the lack of information about departure times.

Roy Dempster, who is carrying steel from South Wales to Switzerland, said: "I spent all night in the truck stop at Ashford and no one had a clue what was going on. There was no official information, just rumours and speculation."

Pickets allow Briton and his

German workers head for stoppage

FROM ROGER BOYES

GERMANY'S powerful metal workers' union moved closer to a strike yesterday after the collapse of a 20-hour negotiating session. "Relations with the unions have plunged to a new low." Martin Kannegiesser, leader of the employers'

negotiating team, said. The crisis in labour relations came as Social Democrats began a four-day debate on next year's budget with a blistering attack on Helmut Kohl's Government which, in the words of one opposition speaker. "is trying to keep the coalition affoat while torpedoing social peace".

The Chancellor's Christian Democrats have put together a package of unpopular public spending cuts, hitting above all the budget of the Employment Ministry, to meet the entry criteria for European monetary union. Herr Kohl's junior coalition partner, the Free Democrats, have come close to deserting the Government because of his decision to delay promised tax cuts. One of Herr Kohl's savings for Maastricht is the reduction of sick pay. This is the issue that has brought unions and employers into sharp conflict even before the beginning of the regular winter wage

The unsuccessful negotiations were held in North Rhine-Westphalia, but it was signalled from the beginning that the eventual deal would set the pace for the almost three million metal workers throughout Germany.

The union, the biggest and probably most influential in Europe, includes workers in steel plants and in car and mechanical engineering factories. They have the capacity to bring Germany to a stand-

The employers are insisting that sick pay should be cut to 80 per cent of wages in accordance with a law that came into effect last month. Unions say that sick pay normal wages: "The rent does 3 not get any cheaper when I am' ill." a furious union picketer outside the negotiating offices in Düsseldorf said.

The unions are willing to make concessions, however. on the annual so-called Christpayment. Companies with high sickness absentee rates would be allowed by the unions to trim the Christmas bonus. The employers rejected the offer.

The breakdown does not lead automatically to a strike. The unions will wait to see how the wage round progresses in January. If that also fails, a strike ballot would be hold in February.



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Rock band roadies stuck in jam

By Stephen Farrell

THE French blockade continued to trap hundreds of British lorries yesterday, including two carrying 21 tonnes of stage equipment for the rock band Status Quo.

As the band prepared to cancel the Belfast leg of its "Can't Stop" European tour, their instruments, costumes and speakers were spending a third day behind a barricade of French juggernauts at the dockside. Robin Fraser, 41, and Mick Bird, 44, the band's drivers, have been stuck at the port since Sunday evening.

Mr Fraser, from Bristol, said: "The guys did a runner from the stage and were two hours' ahead of us when we left Lille and their bus went straight through on the boat. "It doesn't bother me too much. I spend my life sitting around doing very little at the

back of concert halls waiting

for concerts to start or finish. I

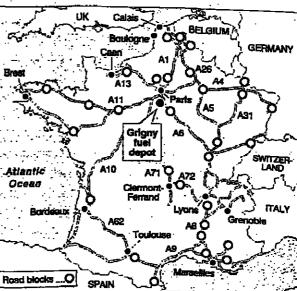
can sit here until the cows

come home."

sick child to take ferry home FROM STEPHEN FARRELL IN CALAIS ONE British lorry was

allowed through the Calais blockade yesterday because its driver had his sick ll-year-old daughter with him. Chris

Tovey, 39, from Gloucestershire, had been stuck on the dockside with his daughter Samantha since Sunday evening after delivering a Royal Mail load to France on Friday night. He was returning with



After hours of negotiations with French union officials he was offered the chance taking his cab only through the blockade, but he told them he feared the sack if he left his valuable load behind. He is nally persuaded them to relent and he caught a ferry to

Dover last night. Mr Tovey, a single parent said he often took Samantha with him but left his other daughter, aged nine, with

"When I got to Calais many French union men at the part said 'forget it, you can't go through'. I tried and tried but I could not persuade them at first. I told them it would look good if they let us through as a show of compassion. Their concern was that the other English drivers would ram the barricade to follow me, but the other truckers, who I have worked with for years, agreed

to let us go." Philippe Rauld, of the French union CFDT, said "We let him go for humanity and not publicity reasons." Worke

head

On the changes to tax and savings PAGE 10



PUBLIC SPENDING Where the money

will go

PAGE 14



WINNERS & LOSERS

won the spending battle, PAGE 15



RED BOOK EXTRACTS

Details of spending plans Section 2, P30



Mantra of prosperity is Clarke's key to success

THE use of the word "prosperity" at least a dozen times in the first 15 minutes of the Budget speech put me in mind of one Norman Lamont Budget, in which I noticed that the word "inflation" outnumbered references to economic growth by a factor of ten-to-one. The contrast is more than semantic. If Kenneth Clarke has managed to deliver a Budget that will. please financial markets, satisfy economists, mollify Tory backbenchers and perhaps even win over a few undecided voters, the key to his success lies in that

mantra of "prosperity" The strength of the British economy has given Mr Clarke the buoyant tax revenues he needed to devise a wellbalanced Budget, with something in it to please almost everyone and nothing, at least on the surface, to cause too much grief. He has cut income taxes, increased spending on frontline public services and

yet reduced the Government's deficit to ease upward pressure on interest rates and the pound

Mr Clarke has been able to do all this in part because he has sensibly east his tax net much wider than many previous Chancellors—to pull in many billions of extra revenue from undertaxed indusby putting an end to VAT underpayments, profit-related pay and numerous other scams. As a result of these measures, the net loss of revenue from this Budget will be only £735 million in 1997-98, despite an impressive reduction in income tax worth £3.4 billion in a full year. Beyond 1998, as the extra money from phasing out the profit-related pay scam adds up, this Budget will actually produce a net increase in taxes of nearly El billion. This, in other words, was a considerably tighter Budget than the

erage a £2.5 billion net tax cut. However, the strong growth of the economy was Mr Clarke's main advantage in framing this Budget, as well as his biggest temptation. Mr Clarke could have used the Treasury's projections of strong revenue growth as an excuse to make much bigger pre-election tax cuts. He wisely resisted, heeding instead the views his advisers, who pointed out that any increase in the

government deficit would force him to raise interest rates sharply and threaten a rerun of Nigel Lawson's boom and bust. The best news item from the Budget was a sentence that Mr Clarke never

uttered, but which was obviously never

Budget should allow interest rates to remain roughly stable between now and the general election and could prevent any further signifi-cant rise in the pound. Another quarter-point increase in base rates in January or February is still quite likely if economic growth continues to accelerate. But the threat that base rates ANATOLE would rise to 6.5 per cent or KALETSKY even 7 per cent by May can

now be ruled out. What, then were this Budget's main defects? Some of Mr Clarke's tax reforms will hit productive investment - his reduction in capital allowances for longlived machinery seemed particularly illjudged. Having cast the net as far as he

did in his search for tax scams and environmentally beneficial taxes, he could have been even more ambitious phasing out profit-related pay more quickly, adding more to the taxes on polluting fuels and perahps taking another bite out of mortgage tax relief. But these are relatively small quibbles. The most important criticism was the one immediately made by Labour spokes-

Mr Clarke's upbeat presentation of his public spending programmes disguised some pretty savage cuts hidden in the details of the public spending numbers, but most of these are only supposed to bite from 1998 onwards. While Mr Clarke could be accused of electoral chicanery for trying to commit the next Government to tougher policies on public spending than he himself has been prepared to pursue, the same figures

could equally plausibly be given an opposite, more upbeat, spin. By next November another Govern-

ment, whether Tory or Labour, will be in office, and if the economy remains as prosperous as Mr Clarke is predicting, that Government will be faced with the not too unpleasant choice between making further tax reductions or restoring some of Mr Clarke's planned spending cuts. In other words, whether this Budget turns out to be a workmanlike effort to maintain prosperity or a straitjacket for the next Labour government will depend on one and only one question. Will the economy continue to deliver today's happy combination of falling unemploy-ment, low inflation and reasonably rapid growth? By sticking to his oft-repeated nostrum that "good economics is good politics", Mr Clarke has made this happy

Chancellor closes tax avoidance loopholes

By MARIANNE CURPHEY AND JASON NISSE

A STRINGENT package to corporations successfully crack down on benefit fraud apple paying taxes totalling and penalise big businesses which use sophisicated ruses to avoid paying tax was the cornerstone of the Budget.

Dubbed "Spend to Save", it is a two-pronged attack on tax cheats who cost the government at least £7 billion a year in lost revenue. The measures tackle tax avoidance by individual welfare claimants and corporations.

Businesses suspected of using legal loopholes to reduce their tax bill face investigations by a team of Inland Revenue officers. Guilty par-ties will have to pay hundreds of millions of pounds in extra

Individuals suspected of working while claiming bene-

fits, and those found to be claiming twice, will be subject to rigorous investigation.

The package will cost ESOO out of business. We all lose million over the next three from that." years but Mr Clarke predicted would recoup more than eight times that amount, £6.7 billion, by eliminating welfare fraud. It is intended to tighten checks on people attempting to run cartels of fabricated

Mr Clarke also indicated his intention to seek out com-panies who had previously been economical with their tax". Although the Chancellor aims to recover almost £7 billion worth of unpaid tax, some industry observers cal-culate that the Government loses more than three times that amount every year. Martyn Bridges, a partner with Deloitte & Touche,

avoid paying taxes totalling between E10 billion and E25 billion every year.

The Chancellor has set a target of £8 of tax saved for every £1 spend, but the Inland Revenue has found that closing loopholes used by multinationals recovers £20 in tax for every £1 spent. "Spend to Save" will be supported by extra Inland Revenue investigators and Customs & Excise Officers, who will be drafted in to tackle VAT and other tax abuses, including the smuggling of alcohol and tobacco.

Mr Clarke said: "We want to combine a strong affordable welfare system with a successful low tax economy. That means that when we spend money on social security, it must only go to those who need it. It also means that when we levy taxes we must make sure that they are paid by those who ought to pay them. Tax cheats put lawabiding small entrepreneurs

The campaign will include a crackdown on some of the schemes that companies legally employ to avoid paying VAT. This should raise an extra E750 million next year and protect a further £1.5 billion a year of existing revenue. Among the areas targeted are firms using relief on bad debts to shield unrelated profits from tax; charging a high element of VAT-exempt insurance on goods sold by retailers; and closing the telecoms loophole, which allowed companies to prepay for telecoms services from outside the European Community, so avoiding a VAT avoidance measure an-



Official version: Kenneth Clarke and his wife, Gillian, leaving 11 Downing Street with the Budget yesterday

However, although the Chancellor announced a massive crackdown on schemes which evade VAT, he was forced to back down on the one measure already announced as coming into force. Faced with challenges in the UK courts, the House of Commons and in Europe, he dropped the proposal to allow Customs & Excise to claim six years of underpaid VAT while restrict-

cases where too much VAT had been paid. This move was announced in July. Last week Customs & Excise

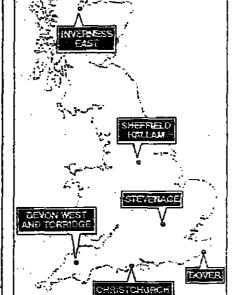
was told it had acted illegally in stopping repayments prior Brussels said it was watching the situation closely. Now the Inland Revenue will only be able to go back three years when claiming underpaid tax. The Budget brings in a

measures, the most controversial of which will bring down the barriers which currently stop the Department of Social Security passing on confidential information to Inland Revenue and Customs except

in extreme cases. The Chancellor is also stopping companies from paying their staff in their own shares as a way of avoiding National Insurance contributions. This

following on from payments in gold bars, coffee beans and even arsenic, and is timed to come into effect before the big Christmas bonus payment season in the City. The Chan-

REACTION IN THE MARGINAL CONSTITUENCIES



many comments. In Dover — which has a Government had not done enough to bring

there was a little more enthusiasm, but most said they would still vote Liberal Democrat. Some even said that the Chancellor should have put taxes up to pay for more health and education, as did voters in Stevenage. Hertfordshire, a key battleground between the Tories and Labour.

Extra cash averts hospital crisis

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

STEPHEN DORRELL has pulled it off. The spectre of a crisis in the NHS this winter has receded after the Health Secretary stole the plums from the Chancellor's table.

Mr Dorrell won an extra £1.6 billion for the health service in England in 1997-98, a rise of 5 per cent on this ar's budget of £31,5 billon. In real terms, this amounts to an increase of £970 million or 2.9 per cent, after allowing for 2 per cent inflation as projected by the Treasury.

The real terms increase of almost El billion is double the extra money Mr Dorrell was widely said to have secured from the Treasury. This is in line with ministers' strategy of damping down expectations in order to create greater joy when the announcement is made.

For the Hospital and Community Health Service, which has been especially hard-pressed this year, the rise is almost £1.2 billion or 3

per cent in real terms. The GP service, which is facing recruitment problems, is to get an extra 3.2 per cent in

Medical organisations responded with relief. Philip Hunt, director of the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, said figure: "It's the kind of target

THE NHS

we have been calling for. This will allow us to roll over some of this year's financial problems and meet next year's commitments."

However, Mr Hunt said the 2 per cent allowance for inflation was low and would require a tight rein on costs and pay increases.

Prescription charges are to rise by 15p from next April. to £5.65, a 2.7 per cent increase in line with

YOYOU YOYOYOYOYOYOYOYOYOYOY

You've heard

whole raft of tax avoidance is the latest loophole closed, estimates that individuals and nounced earlier this year. £5m for World Service avoids programme cuts

By MICHAEL BINYON THE Foreign Office clawed back a small increase in its budget from the Chancellor. allowing it to give vitally needed new expenditure to

the BBC World Service and the British Council. The World Service will next year have an extra £5 million on its budget of £166 million, an increase of 3 per cent, which will allow it to maintain its range of foreign-language broadcasting and avoid cutting programmes and transmitting facilities. The extra money will also pay for new technolTHE BOOK

ogy, especially digital audio broadcasting, and allow the World Service to buy time on

The grant comes after a year of turmoil as a result of plans by John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, to amalgamate much of the World Service production with domestic broadcasting. The World Service won backing from Malcohn Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, for a full review of these changes, and now has a

enarantee that it can main-

and Mr Rifkind have praised as vital to British diplomacy, has won an increase of £4 millio, which will mean it can keep its current overseas network. There had been fears last year that up to 20 posts would have to be closed because of money shortages. Overall, the Foreign Office has won a 0.2 per cent

tain its current services.

The British Council.

which both Douglas Hurd

increase in funds in real terms. However, the total drop in the three years since 1995 is expected to be almost

cellor expects to save £110 million this year through this Other areas under review include transfer pricing within large companies, use of double taxation treaties and the trans-TAX changes appeared to have little immediate effect on the Conservatives' election prospects, according to a Times straw poll of voters in six constituencies where the Tories have small majorities or are dose challengers The fuel increase was attacked in rural Devon West and Torridge, and also in the four-way marginal Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber, where some claimed it was anti-Scottish because so much has to be transported there by road. Failure to cut business rates scatured in Tory majority of just 833 - voters said the In the once-Tory seat of Christchurch,

THE BUDGET. NOW MAKE AN INVESTMENT. It's never toc late to l·uy a personalised Crass Len business gift. Find it won't break your budget. Phone 01582 422793. Fax 01582 22941.

Interest rate rises could soon cancel out tax cuts when the 'virtuous' Clarke meets Eddie George

CLARKE KENNETH began yesterday by declaring that he would neither play Scrooge, a role for which his girth disqualifies him, nor Santa Claus, a part for which his ample form and red

cheeks make him a natural. True to his word, he gave with one hand and took away with the other, introducing some modest tax cuts but removing some benefits.

In an unfortunate phrase that recalled the late Bernie Cornfeld, an infamous investment fraudster who attracted clients to his funds with the phrase "do you seriously want to be rich?" Mr Clarke told the nation that they "seriously wanted to be

He then presented them with a range of tax cuts and Chancellor woos the middle managers

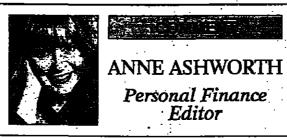
average earnings £2.88 a

week better off. However, 3.7 million employees in profit-related pay schemes will be feeling less than enthusiastic. Ian Barlow, UK head of tax at the accountants KPMG, predicted that the phasing out of profit-related pay would cause pain to thousands whose companies could not afford salary rises to replace the tax-free portion.

The 22 million workers who are not members of

improved allowances intended to leave a worker on £1.5 billion bill for this tax dodge for employers. However, they can now look forward to paying more for their insurance policies and their holidays, following the rises in air passenger duty and insurance premium tax. Worse still, they can expect

higher mortgage rates.
The Chancellor may have believed that his "virtuous" Budget will have lessened the pressure on inflation and so the need for higher interest rates. But many disagree, believing that Eddie George. Governor of the Bank of England, will still press for



higher rates when the bulky duo meet next month. This will cancel out the tax cuts. meet, more families will, perhaps, have to take advantage of another Budget mea-

sure, the Rent-a-Room

scheme. Anyone taking in a lodger will be able to earn £4,250 in rent, against £3,250. In his speech he made much of raising the tax threshold, so removing close to half a million people from

band and the 1 per cent cut in since the last general election. the basic rate of income tax.

Like so many of his predecessors at No.11, Mr Clarke posed as the friend of the low paid. Closer scrutiny, bowever, shows him to be more a pai to those who earn around £30,000 a year. That these people will do best out of the figures do not take into income tax charges is no accident. Mr Clarke wished some other taxes and deto cosy up to the politically

wavering middle managers. As he neared the end of his speech, the Chancellor pro-

changes, including the in- ily would be £370 better off next year and £1,100 better off He took care not to define this unit dreamt up by some Treasury boffin, with little resemblance to a real house-hold. For example, the figures assume that the putative wage-earner has each year received a pay rise of above the rate of inflation. The

> creases in child benefit. Almost as unconvincing was the Chancellor's assurance that the tax system

account increases in VAT and

favoured marriage. The married couple's allowance was raised from £1,790 to £1,830 but since it is given only at the 15 per cent rate of tax, it will be worth just £275 a year. The elderly were the group forgotten by this Budget.

There were no special say-There were no special sav-ings schemes or decreases in the rate of savings tax to compensate for the meagre returns now being paid on savings accounts. Although the Chancellor raised the inheritance tax threshold by mneritance iak intestion by more than the rate of inflation from £200,000 to £215,000, he disappointed many by failing to exclude houses from its scope. For the umpteenth time, he affirmed his party's pledge to abolish the tax. But then he never has yet abolished a tax.

Extra £325m 'will damage tourism here and abroad'

By Marianne Curphey and Harvey Elliott

AN EXTRA £325 million a try, which had been camyear will be collected because of the doubled rate of air passenger duty. Travellers flying within the UK and to the Continent will pay £10 instead of £5 in duty, while those flying further afield will have to pay £20 instead of £10.

The rise will come into effect in November 1997, after next summer's peak holiday per-iod, to give tour operators time

AIRPORT TAX

to amend their brochures to take account of the additional costs. It will coincide with sharp increases in fuel prices working their way through the system. Airlines are now having to commit to fuel for next winter and face increases of up

The airport tax, introduced in the Budget of November 1994, stunned the travel induspaigning against the threat of VAT on air fares.

Yesterday, the Chancellor justified the rise by saying that booming and 40 per cent of the revenue raised would be paid by visitors from overseas. The duty is levied when the airline ticket is purchased.

Most airlines and travel companies have absorbed a proportion of the tax to keep prices down, but they fear that they can no longer continue to do this. A spokesman for Thomson Holidays, the big-gest tour operator in the UK, expressed disappointment at the rise. He said: "In a competitive market, no tour operator is keen to raise their prices, but we cannot keep absorbing this duty. This time

shoulders the burden." The Federation of Tour Operators, which represents growth markets — inbound wrote a joint letter pleading



but the tax rise will take some of the romance out a foreign holiday from next autumn, say travel chiefs:

nearly all the main UK holiday companies, said: "This is a great disappointment to us and will put up the price of winter 1997-98 and summer

1998 package holidays." Geoff Lipman, president of the World Travel and Tourism the UK holidaymaker and businessman in the pocket, and seriously damages one of ation of Tour Operators and market. "It could not have absorbed the tax since 1995 the country's key export

tourism - but it also hits everyone involved in the service industries "

When the tax was first introduced two years ago, it was feared that it could prove the thin end of the wedge and be a permanent target for further increases. All sections of the industry, including British Airways, ABTA, the Federthe British Tourist Authority. come at a worse time," he said. and as a result there are now wrote a joint letter pleading "There is no question that this one million fewer holidays

raise the tax again. It was widely thought that the mess-

age had hit home. Richard Tobias, of the British Incoming Tour Operators Association, said that as the pound was already strengthening against other currencies, it would severely affect the booming inbound tourism

with the Chancellor not to will affect the number of

visitors coming to Britain."
The BTA's chief executive,
Anthony Sell, said that the
move would "erode Britain's
competitiveness". Martin
Brackenbury, of the Federation of Tour Operators, said that the industry would lobby and fight the proposals through the Finance Bill. "We

being taken. This big increase

can only affect those people who cannot afford to pay the top prices. The rich will not worry by an extra ES or El0 on their holidays; but the family for whom a foreign holiday is marginal will be badly hit and many will no longer be able to afford to go away."

ARTA described the fircrease as a poll tax on

holidaymakers" which would be deeply unpopular.

Car policies will cost £13.60 more on average

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BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

MOTORISTS will have to pay £13.60 extra on an average car insurance policy of £340 after the fears of the insurance industry were confirmed and the Chancellor raised the insurance premium tax from 2.5

per cent to 4 per cent.

The move will raise £450 million a year for the Trea-sury, bringing the total collected from non-life insurance policyholders to £1.2 billion for the next full financial year.

It will add £5 to the average household contents premium of £125; £15 to a medical insurance policy costing £380, and £7.60 to a buildings insurance policy of £190.

blow to the insurance industry which vehemently opposed the introduction of insurance premium tax in the Novem

ber 1993 Budget to apply with effect from October 1, 1994, to most forms of general insurance. However, some in the sector had predicted that the

tax would rise to 6 per cent. The tax is seen as a soft target by the Government, for although the industry greeted its introduction with dismay, the public has so far paid up without complaint. It applies to all general insurance except life assurance or

The Chancellor justified the rise in the tax on the ground that the insurance industry was undertaxed compared with that in other European Union countries.

Insurers believe the Chancellor would like to bring the tax up to the same level as VAT at 17.5 per cent. They see yesterday's rise as the first step

towards that goal.

Heirs welcome grace of threshold rise well above inflation

AND CLARE STEWART

THE Chancellor raised the inheritance tax limit from £200,000 to £215,000, reaffirming the Government's oft-stated wish to see "wealth cascade down the generations" and remove more estates from the taxman's clutches.

The rise is well above the amount needed for inflation — indexation would have raised the limit to

apply to tax charges arising on or after April 6, 1997. The change means that the tax threshold has

Mr Clarke described the measure as "a further significant step towards abolishing inheritance tax". Inheritance tax is a penalty on thrift, independence and enterprise. It is a growing anachronism," he said, adding that it was "largely

SAMPERITANCE TAXE

paid by people of modest means who either cannot or simply do not make careful plans to avoid it."

been raised by nearly 40 per cent, or more than £60,000, in two years. Inheritance tax is levied on the value of an individual's estate, or on any assets transferred in the seven years before death. Tax is charged at 40 per cent on amounts above the threshold. Despite the increase the rise was still below some expecta-

tions and hopes that the threshold would be raised to at least £250,000. "It is less than I expected and is only going to affect a small number of people," David Oliver, of consul-

tants Arthur Andersen, said. There was also some disappoint-ment that Kenneth Clarke did not remove homes from the scope of the tax, so lessening its impact on the middle classes, or abolish it altogether. "Taking the principal private residence out would have made

such a difference to a lot of people," Mark Bolland, from independent financial advisers Chamberlain de

Broe, said. Although inheritance tax has been described as a "voluntary tax. paid only by those who disliked their heirs more than the Inland Revenue", in practice it is paid by many who have acquired a moderate amount of wealth through rising property prices. Those with ancestral acres enter into complex

or avoid it altogether.
The only concession in this year's Budget is to allow that farmland dedicated to wildlife habitats is to be eligible for relief. This measure comes into force immediately.

In 1995, 18,000 people paid the tax. Raising the threshold will reduce the number of estates paying tax to about 14,000 in 1996-97. The yield from inheritance tax in 1997-98 is estimated at £1.55 billion.

Depressed Dover sees no light at end of Tunnel

DOVER was looking for something in the Budget to encourage new jobs but found nothing. The indications from people contacted by The Times yesterday are that the constituency will swing to Labour at the next

Mick Peters has worked on the ferries for almost 20 years. Having seen the industry grow, he is now "in danger of watching it die" in the face of what he sees as unfair competition from the Channel Tunnel.

"As far as the local area is concerned it is a non-Budget. All depressed areas will have been looking for a kickstart from the Chancellor and they have not received it. He has missed an opportunity." said Mr Peters, who works for Stena as a freight service assistant. "He has given a little bit away in tax but then with the other hand clobbered people on car tax and

fuel." Jackie Bowies was hoping the Chancellor would resist the temptation to hit alcohol and cigarettes. She has run the Louis Armstrong public house in Dover for 35 years and chairs the local Licensed Victuallers As-

sociation. The influx of cheap aicohol and tobacco from France has badly hit the pub trade. She estimates trade has fallen by 20 per cent. "People are DOVER

Tory MP David Shaw holds 833 majority. Unemployment (7.3 per cent) is main issue in a ferry port

can't afford to compete on price. We used to carry £1.000 worth of cigarette stock a month, we don't sell any now. The only solution is a parity of duty."

She said: "I am not at all impressed. I am pleased to see he will be increasing the number of customs officers but by increasing the price of cigarettes he has effectively created a bootleggers' charter."

Ray Haines is the new chief executive of the Dover and District Chamber of Commerce, and believes the impact of the Channel Tunnel on local jobs has been "an unmitigated disaster".

From a national point of view I think it is a significant Budget in forecasting in-creased spending, and the freeze in business rates is good." But he added: "I don't think the Chancellor has done anything for Dover. I have and always will vote Tory but I don't think they

will win again here. "People here have long drinking at home and we memories and they have not



forgotten the closure of the centives are needed to bring Kent coalfields or the effect of the Channel Tunnel."

Bill Smith is a retail director with the long-established shipping firm George Hammond which employs 400 people in Dover. Like others he believes government innew business to the town. From a business point of view it is not a very exciting Budget, a bit soft in many ways. Nothing jumps out as helping Dover. Tax cuts are fine but if you haven't got a job then it's meaningless."

Blind grant rises by £30

The extra tax allowance for blind people was raised by £30 a year to £1.280 and will be index-linked. The Royal National Institute for the Blind said the rate had been frozen for many years and that only a quarter of blind people of working age had jobs. The institute wanted more spent on removing workplace handi-caps and discrimination.

Capital gains

The capital gains tax allow-ance was raised in line with inflation from £6,300 to £6,500. Trusts will be exempt from the first £3,250 of capital gains in 1997/1998 — this also rose in line with inflation.

Charities lose

The Chancellor's decision to cut lp off the basic rate of income tax means charities will lose £13 million this year from the tax relief available to them via donations and covenants.

£llm MoD boost

The Ministry of Defence was given a bonus of £11 million in its current budget after a deal to spread payments from the sale of married quarters for El.66 billion to a Japanese-led private consortium.

Whitehall curbs

The costs of running the central government machine are to be pruned by £1.8 billion in the next three years. Mr Clarke will continue a 'remorseless squeeze" to cut the E15.1 billion annual budget.



'We would pay for better

health and education' CHRISTCHURCH evinced

only mild enthusiasm for the Budget, and there was little evidence that old loyalties to the Tories had been rekindled by a cut in the basic rate of income tax. Betty Rider, 77, a widow, would have welcomed an in-

come tax rise rather than a cut. "I would willingly invest in the future and there are many older people in Christchurch who feel as I do. I pay tax on my pension ... and I wouldn't notice an extra couple of pennies if the money was well spent on will find it hard to cope. If I public services like schools,

the NHS and the police." Mrs Rider welcomed the increase in duty on alcoholic fizzy drinks. "In a town like Christchurch we have quite a problem with drunk- and bribe us", Mrs Rider

CHRISTCHURCH

Tory majority of 23,000 overturned by Lib Dems three years ago. Third of 72,384 electorate are pensioners. Many wealthy voters

enness, booliganism

... Higher fuel costs and the rise in road tax were not so welcome."As a pensioner, I could, I would walk more pt at my age that us

Conceding that Kenneth Clarke had been "quite charismatic and he did not try going to vote Liberal Democrat again.

David Colleau, who owns a gift shop in the Dorset town, praised Mr Clarke for freezing the business rate but said the local authority should be responsible for levying it. He was angry at the rise in fuel costs.

He would willingly have paid more income tax in return for better health and education services. Mr Colleau, who voted Liberal Democrat at the local by election in 1993, said that although he welcomed much in the Budget his old allegiance to the Tones had yet to return. "I might go back to them but they still have quite a bit of work to

Prudent cuts put extra £150 a year in average pocket

By CAROLINE MERRELL

The tex changes mean a single he was able.

person on an annual salary of A cut to 20p this year would have cost as much as £7.5 billion — a someone earning £20,000 will pay £195 less tax, while a single person earning £30,000 will pay £413 less

ar police

11 average

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per cent respectively. On average taxpayers will be £150 a year better THE STRATEGY of delivering a coff. The decision to cut one penny off the basic rate of income tax to come tax to c rate of tax down to 20p as soon as

move that would have been seen as stoking the inflationary pressures building up in the economy. With tax. These represent tax savings of inflation picking up to 2.7 per cent 4.55 per cent, 3.55 per cent and 4.93 last month and underlying infla-

tion hitting 3.3 per cent, Mr Clarke felt that a tax cut of greater than one penny would be too risky. He said: "I will continue to stay ahead of the game."

However, his decision to raise by £280 to £4,045 the threshold under which no tax is payable -- threeand a half times the figure neces-sary to keep pace with inflation will will mean about 410,000 will stop paying income tax altogether. increasing the 20p tax band by £200 to £4,100, twice the inflation figure, will increase the number of people paying tax at only 20 per cent to just over seven million, or a quarter of those paying income tax.

INCOME TAX

Those paying only the lower rate of tax have now nearly doubled in number, since 1992, when just over four million people paid tax at only 20p. The Chancellor increased the basic rate band by £600, the rate of inflation, to £26,100.

Next year, an estimated 20 million people will benefit financially from the flotation or takeover of their building society or life insurance company. On average each payout will be worth in the region of £1,000, equivalent to an 8p reduction in tax for one year

only — this is also deemed to be adding to inflationary pressure. In an effort to underline its commitment to family values, the Government has also increased the married couple's allowance by the inflation figure from £1,790 to £1,830. This is the second time the allowance has been increased in

the past two years. Relief on the

married couple's allowance is cur-

rently 15 per cent. For the previous six years, this allowance was frozen at £1,720. A recent report carried out for Christian Action Research & Education (Care) found that tax for married couples had increased 250 per cent

as a percentage of income, while tax for single people had only increased 23 per cent. Care, with the help of Michael Alison, the Conservative MP for Selby, is campaigning for further increases in the married couple's allowance.

Allowances for those aged over 65 have also increased. The higher allowance is currently £4,910 for those aged between 65 and 75. Those aged over 75 benefit from an allowance of £5,090. These rise to £5,220 and £5,400, respectively. These age-related allowances are only available for those who earn under £15,600.

Pensioners also benefit from a

If one of the couple is aged between 65 and 74, the married couple's allowance is £3,115, which is rising to £3.185. If he or she is aged over 75 the allowance is £3,155, which rises to £3,225.

The Chancellor claims that the tax changes will mean that over seven million families will be £370 better off next year - this assumes

wage rises of 1.5 per cent. He also claims that the average family is now £1,100 better off than it was before the last election. He did not take into account increases in VAT and other tax in this calculation.

City expects rates to rise before poll

By Janet Bush and Sara McConnell

THE "deceptively tight" Budget is not enough to head off the Abbey National, the secmore damaging rises in inter-est rates before the election, according to the City and to another quarter of a point, mortgage lenders.

City reaction was lukewarm with the money markets continuing to look for base rates to rise by more than a full percentage point from their current level of 6 per cent over

the next year.

Mortage lenders said that this would almost certainly mean a rise in rates for homeowners. Major lenders, with the exception of the Nationwide, held their standard mortgage rates steady when base rates rose by a quarter of a percentage point last month. A handful of smaller societies including the Birmingham Midshires moved their rates up, but a

further rise would force more lenders to follow suit.

But despite these apparent signs of fiscal toughness there was considerable scepticism in the City last night both about whether spending cuts outlined in the Chancellor's

speech, were genuine and whether the Budget had been tight enough to reak in strong economic growth. Indeed, by the Chancellor's own reckoning, growth is set to accelerate next year to 3.5 per cent from 25 per cent this year with domestic demand growing by 3.75 per cent and consumer spending increas-Even as the Chancellor sat

ing by more than 4 per cent. down, the City was turning its attention to the monetary. meeting on December 11 in the expectation that Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, will push for higher rates. Margaret the Abbey National, the second largest lender predicted that base rates will rise by possibly in December but more likely in January, leading to an inevitable rise in

mortgage rates. She said: This seems a fairly responsible Budget considering where we are in the political cycle. But it isn't quite enough for a monetary loosening. I think this will show in-

the cool light of tomorrow. Jonathan Loynes, of HSBC Markets said: "Eddie George will be asking for higher rates when he and the Chancellor meet on December 11. It is by no means certain that there is enough fiscal tightening in the Budget Lenders will have to

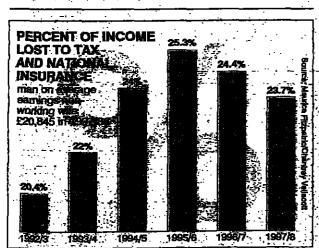
force up rates."

He noted, however, that the Chancelior will be reluctant to raise rates either just before Christmas or in January when the election campaign has

started in earnest. But some voices yesterday argued against the consensus, saying that there are not enough inflationary pressures in the economy to warrant higher rates. David Gilchrist, general manager of the Halideflationary rather than refla tionary and on this basis there seems no need for a rise in

Nevertheless, he acknowledged that "it was more likely than not that the society would have to respond to any rate

Steven Bell, chief economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell argued that the Chancellor had committed a sleight of hand" and that people would find themselves paying more rather than less tax. This would choke off the need for a rate rise although the markets were still expecting one.



Down but not to 1992/93 levels

FOR the second successive year income tax and National Insurance contributions as a proportion of earnings have dropped but they still have a long way to go to match the low levels of 1992/93, the year of the last general election (Sarah Jones writes).

A family living on an aver-age man's salary of £20,845 will see 23.7 per cent of next year's gross earnings eaten up by tax and National Insurance contributions, according to calculations by Maurice Fitzpatrick, senior tax consultant at Chantrey Velacott. That is an improvement on the 1996/97 tax year, when the family will pay 24.4 per cent but it is not as low as the year of the last election when only

20.4 per cent of gross earnings disappeared in tax and NI. Across the board, including the single person, a working couple and high earners, the pattern is of a decrease of 0.6 per cent in the proportion of earnings taken up in tax and NI. The proportion peaked in 1995/96 after a big jump in NI rates and the restriction of certain tax allowances to 15 per

cent and then started dropping with last year's Budget. But most of us will still be worse off than we were at the last election. The lone parent on average adult earnings has been the worse hit, paying 22.6 per cent of his earnings in tax and NI next year, compared

with 18.8 per cent in 1992/93. The big earners will be little affected. A man earning £208,450 will pay 37.8 per cent in tax and NI, down from this year's 37.9 per cent but not back to the 1992/93 level of 37.3 per cent. The widening of the higher income tax band by

£600 will have little impact. The positive effect, however. of lowering the basic rate of tax and increasing personal allowances will be more or less eliminated by the effect of indirect taxation, including duty on petrol and cigarettes and tax on insurance premiums and air travel. Mr Fitzpatrick said. To get back to 1992/93 levels the Chancellor would have had to lower the basic tax rate by a further 6p.

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_	199	7/98	199	6/97	199	7/98	19	96/97	19	97/98	19	96/97	199	37/98	1996	/97
GROSS ANNUAL INCOME Personal allowance Taxable income MCA relief Tax thereon NI contributions Child benefit	Husband 12,000 4,045 7,955 275 1,707 942	8,000 4,045 3,955 0 791 542 574	Husband 12,000 3,765 8,235 269 1,820 946	8,000 3,765 4,235 0 860 546 562	Husband 15,000 4,045 10,956 275 3,397 1,242	Wife 10,000 4,045 5,955 0 1,247 742 574	Husband 15,000 3,765 11,235 269 2,540 1,246	10,000 3,765 6,234 0 1,340 746 562	Husband 20,000 4,045 15,955 275 3,547 1,742	Wite 15,000 4,045 10,955 0 2,397 1,242 574	Husband 20,000 3,765 16,235 269 3,740 1,745	Wile 15,000 3,765 11,235 0 2,540 1,246 582	Husband 30,000 4,045 25,965 275 5,847 2,160	Wife 15,000 4,045 10,955 0 2,397 1,242 574	Husband 30,000 3,765 26,235 269 6,258 2,112	15,00 3,70 11,20 2,50 1,20 5,6
NET INCOME JOINT NET INCOME Tax (reduction)/focrease	9,526 16,867 (5.01%)	7,241 (£196)	9,503 16,659	7,156	11,636 22,221 (4.45%)	8,585 (£250)	11,483 19,959	8,476	14,986 26921 (3.88%)	11,935 (£350)	14,783 26,559	11,776	22,268 34,203 (4.34%)	11,935 (£516)	21,899 33,675	11,77
GROSS ANNUAL INCOME Personal allowance Taxable Income MICA relief Tax thereon Ni contributions Child benefit	Husband 40,000 4,045 35,955 275 9,822 2,160	Wite 20,000 4,045 15,955 0 3,547 1,742 574	Husband 40,000 3,765 36,235 269 10,258 2,112	Wife 20,000 3,765 16,235 0 3,740 1,746 562	Husband 60,000 4,045 55,955 275 17,822 2,160	Wife 40,000 4,045 35,955 0 9,822 2,160 574	Husband 60,000 3,765 56,235 269 18,258 2,112	Wite 40,000 3,765 36,235 0 10,258 2,112 562	Husband 80,000 4,045 75,955 275 25,822 2,160	Wife 60,000 4,045 55,955 0 17,822 2,160 574	Husband 80,000 3,765 76,235 269 26,258 2,112	Wife 60,000 3,765 56,235 0 18,258 2,112 562	Husband 100,000 4,045 95,955 275 33,822 2,160	Wife 80,000 4,045 75,955 0 25,822 2,160 574	Husband 100,000 3,765 96,235 269 34,258 2,112	Wit 80,00 3,76 76,23 26,25 2,11 56
NET INCOME JOINT NET INCOME Tax (reduction)/increase	28,293 43,578 (3.36%)	15,285 (£591)	27,899 42,975	15,076	40,293 68,885 (2.41%)	28,592 (£782)	39,899 68,091	28,192	52,293 92,885 (1.61%)	40,592 (£782)	51,899 92,091	40,192	64,293 116,885 (1,21%)	52,592 (£782)	63,899 116,091	52,19

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	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97
GROSS ANNUAL INCOME	19, <i>5</i> 05	19,505	20,000	20,000	25,000	25,000	30,000	30,000	35,000	35,000
Personal atlowance	4,045	3,785	4,045	3,765	4,045	3,765	4,045	3,765	4,045	3,765
Taxable income	15,460	15,740	15,955	16,235	20,955	21,235	25,955	26,235	30,965	31,235
MCA relief Tax thereon	275 3,433	269 3,622	275 3,547	2 69 3,740	275 4,697	269 4,940	275 5,847	269 6,258 ·	275 7,822	269 8,258
NI contributions	3,433 1, 693	3,622 1,697	1,742	3,74U 1 746	2,160	2,112	2,160	2,112	2,160	2,112
Child benefit	1,042	1,020	1,042	1,746 1,020	1,042	1,020	1,042	1,020	1,042	1,020
NET INCOME	15,696	15,475	16,028	15,803	19,460	19,237	23,310	22,919	26,335	25,919
Tax (reduction)/increase	(3.93%)	(£199)	(3.88%)	(E203)	(2.96%)	(5201)	(4.55%)	(£369)	(3.90%)	(£394)
4.3	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97
GROSS ANNUAL INCOME	45,000	45,000	60,000	60,000	100,000	100,000	140,000	140,000	180,000	180,000
Personal allowance	4,045	3,765	4.045	3,765	4,045	3,765	4,045	3,765	4,045	3,765
Taxable income	40,955	41,235	55,955 275	56,235	95,955	96,235	135,955	136,235	175,955	176,235
MCA reflet	275	269	275	269	275	269	275	259	275	269
Tax thereon NI contributions	11,822	12,258	17,822	18,258	33,822 2,160	34,258	49,822	50,258	65,822 2,160	66,258
Child benefit	2,180 1,042	2,112 1,020	2,160 1,042	2,112 1,020	1,042	2,112 1,020	2,160 1,042	2,112 1,020	1,042	2,112 1,020
Other Collegif	1,042	1,020	1,042	1,020	1,042	1,020	1,042	1,020	1,042	1,020
NET INCOME	. 32,335	31,919	41,335	40,919	65,335	64,919	89,335	88,919	113,335	112,919
Tax (reduction)/increase	(2.79%)	(2394)	(1.96%)	(£394)	(1,09%)	(£394)	(0.76%)	(£394)	(0.58%)	(£394)

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٠.		199	7/98	199	6/97		7/98	199	96/97	199	97/98	19	96/97	199	97/98	1996	5/97
	INCOME (PENSIONS) Personal allowance Taxable income MCA reliaf Tax thereon	Husband 8,180 5,220 2,960 478 592	Wife 1,942 5,220 0 0	Husband 8,112 4,910 3,202 487 640	Wife 1,889 4,910 0 0	13,180 5,220 7,960 478 1,708	Wife 1,942 5,220 0 0	Husband 13,112 4,910 8,202 467 1,812	Wife 1,888 4,910 0 0	Husband 19,180 4,045 14,135 461 3,128	Wite 1,942 5,220 0 0	Husbend 18,112 3,765 14,347 421 3,287	Wife 1,888 4,910 0	Husband 23,180 4,045 19,135 275 4,278	Wife 1,942 5,220 0 0	Husband 23,112 3,765 19,347 269 4,487	1. 4.
	NET INCOME JOINT NET INCOME Tax (raduction)/Increase	8,066 10,008 (34.10%)	1,942 (£59)	7,939 9,827	1,888	11,950 13,892 (8.55 %)	1,942 (£115)	11,767 13,655	1,888	15,513 17,455 (6.94%)	1,942 (£199)	15,246 17,134	1,888	19,177 21,119 (5.10%)	1,942 (£215)	18,894 20,782	1,
	INCOME (PENSIONS) Investment Income Personal allowance Taxable Income MCA relief Tax thereon	Husband 18,180 6,000 4,045 20,136 275 4,328	Wife 1,942 4,000 5,220 722 0 144	Husband 18,112 6,000 3,765 20,347 289 4,487	Wife 1,888 4,000 4,910 978 0 196	Husband 23,180 6,000 4,045 25,135 275 5,478	Wife 1942 4,000 5,220 722 0 144	Husband 23,112 6,000 3,765 25,347 269 5,887	Wife 1,888 4,000 4,910 978 0 196	Husband 28,180 6,000 4,045 30,135 275 7,435	Wite 1,942 4,000 5,220 722 0 144	Husband 28,112 6,000 3,765 30,347 269 7,857	Wife 1,888 4,000 4,910 978 0 196	Husband 43,180 9,000 4,045 48,135 275 14,694	Wife 1,942 6,000 5,220 2,722 0 544	Husband 43,112 9,000 3,765 48,347 269 15,103	1. 6. 4. 2.
-	NET INCOME JOINT NET INCOME Tax (reduction)/increase	20,127 25,925 (4,92%)	5,798 (5217)	19,894 25,586	5,692	23,977 29,775 (4.78%)	5,798 (9267)	23,694 29,386	5,692	27,020 32818 (6.17%)	5,798 (£480)	26,524 32,216	5,692	37,761 45,159 (3.03%)	7,398 (£467)	37,278 44,570	7,

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INCOME (PENSIONS) Personal allowance Taxable income MCA relief Tax thereon	Husband 8,190 5,400 2,780 484 556	Wife 1,942 5,400 0 0	Husband 8,112 5,090 3,022 473 604	Wite 1,888 5,090 0 0	10,180 5,400 4,780 484 976	Wife 1,942 5,400 0 0	Husband 10,112 5,090 5,022 473 1,049	Wife 1,888 5,090 0 0	Husband 13,180 5,400 7,780 484 1,666	Wife 1,942 5,400 0 0	Husband 13,112 5,090 8,022 473 1,769	Wite 1,888 5,090 0 0	Husband 18,180 4,110 14,070 484 3,113	Wife 1,942 5,400 0 0	Husband 18,112 3,765 14,347 454 3,287	Wife 1,888 5,090 0 0
NET INCOME JOINT NET INCOME Tax (reduction)/Increase	8,108 10,050 (45,04%)	1,942 (£59)	7,981 9,869	1,888	9,688 11,630 (14.58%)	1,942 (£84)	9,536 11,424	1,888	11,998 13,940 (8.8%)	1,942 (£114)	11,816 13,704	1,888	15,551 17,493 (7.2%)	1,942 (£204)	15,279 17,167	1,888
INCOME (PENSIONS) Investment income Personal allowance Texable income MCA relief Tax thereon	Husband 13,180 6,000 4,045 15,135 419 3,178	Wife 1,942 4,000 5,400 542 0 108	Husband 13,112 6,000 3,765 15,347 379 3,287	Wife 1,888 4,000 5,090 798 0 160	Husband 18,180 6,000 4,045 20,135 275 4,328	Wife 1,942 4,000 5,400 542 0 108	Husband 18,112 6,000 3,765 20,347 269 4,487	Wife 1,888 4,000 5,090 798 0 160	Husband 23,180 6,000 4,045 25,135 275 5,478	Wife 1,942 4,000 5,400 542 0 108	Husband 23,112 6,000 3,765 25,347 269 5,687	Wife 1,888 4,000 5,090 798 0 160	Husband 23,180 9,000 4,045 28,135 275 6,485	Wife 1,942 6,000 5,400 2,542 0 508	Husband 23,112 8,000 3,765 28,347 289 5,857	Wife 1,888 6,000 5,090 2,798 0 560
NET INCOME A JOINT NET INCOME Tex (reduction)/increase	16,421 22,255 (6,55%)	5,834 (£201)	16,204 21,932	5,728	20,127 25,961 (4,96%)	5,834 (£217)	19,894 25,622	5,728	23,977 29,811 (4,79%)	5,834 (£267)	23,694 29,422	5,728	25,970 33,404 (6.02%)	7,434 (£430)	25,524 32,852	7,328

•	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97
GROSS ANNUAL INCOME	10,000	10,000	15,000	15,000	20,000	20,000
Personal allowance	4,045	3,765	4,045	3,765	4,045	3,765
Taxable income	5,955	6,235	10,955	11,235	15,955	16,235
Tax thereon Ni contributions	1, <u>247</u> 742	1,340 746	2,397 1,242	2,540 1,246	3,547 1,742	3,740 1,746
NET INCOME	8,011	7.914	11,361	11,214	14,711	14,514
Tax(reduction)/increase	(4.65%)	(£97)	(3.88%)	(£147)	(3.59)	(£197)
	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97
GROSS ANNUAL INCOME	30,000	30,000	45,000	45,000	60,000	60,000
Personal allowance	4,045	3,765	4,045	3,765	4,045	3,765
Taxable income	25,955	26,235	40,955	41,235	55955	56,235
Tex thereon	5,847	6,258	11,822	12,258	17,822	18,258
Ni contributions	2,160	2,112	2,160	2,112	<u>2,160</u>	2,112
NET INCOME	221,993	21,630	31,018	30,630	40,018	39,630
Tax(reduction)/increase	(4.34%)	(£363)	(2.70%)	(£388)	(1.90%)	(2388)

SINGLE PERSON, NO CHILDREN

6/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97
.000	15,000	15,000	20,000	20,000
765	4,045	3,765	4,045	3,765
235	10.955	11,235	15,955	16,235
340	2,397	2,540	3,547	3,740
746	1,242	1,246	1,742	1,746
914	11,361	11,214	14,711	14,514
97)	(3,88%)	(£147)	(3.59)	(£197)
٠٠,	(00000)	(2.47)	(0)	(4137)
6/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97
,000	45,000	45,000	60,000	60,000
765	4,045	3,765	4,045	3,765
,235	40,955	41,235	55955	56,235
258	11,822	12,258	17,822	18,258
112	2,160	2,112	2,160	2,112
.630	31,018	30,630	40,018	39,630

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	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97
GROSS ANNUAL INCOME	10,000	10,000	15,000	15,000	20,000	20,000
Personal allowance	5,220	4,910	5,220	4,910	4,045	3,765
Texable Income	4,780	5,090	9,780	10,090	15,955	16,235
Tax thereon	976	1,066	2,126	2,266	3,547	3,740
NET INCOME	9,024	8,934	12,874	12,734	16,453	16,260
Tax(reduction)/Increase	(8.44%)	(590)	(6.18%)	(£140)	(5.16%)	(E193)
	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97	1997/98	1996/97
GROSS ANNUAL INCOME	25,000	25,000	30,000	30,000	35,000	35,000
Investment income	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Personal allowance	4,045	3,765	4,045	3,765	4,045	3,765
Taxable income	35,955	36,235	40.955	41,235	45,955	46.235
Tax thereon	9,688	10,087	11,818	12,258	13,822	14,258
NET INCOME	30,332	29,913	33,182	32,742	36,178	35,742
Tax(reduction)/Increase	(4.15%)	(£419)	(3.59%)	(£440)	(3.06%)	(£436

SINGLE PERSON, TWO CHILDREN

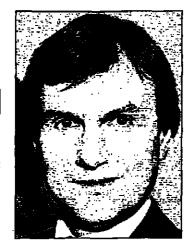
	• .						
	GROSS ANNUAL INCOME Personal allowance Taxable Income APA relial Tax thereon NI contributions Child benefit	1997/98 12,000 4,045 7,955 275 1,707 942 1,042		4,045 10,955 275 2,397 1,242	15,000 3,765 11,235 269 2,540 1,246	4,045 15,955 275 3,547 1,742	1996/97 20,000 3,765 16,235 265 3,746 1,746 1,025
	NET INCOME Tex (reduction)/increase	10,668 (4,91%)	10,523 (£123)	12,678 (4.34%)	12,503 (£153)	16,028 (3.88%)	15,803 (\$203)
	GROSS ANNUAL INCOME Personal allowance Texable income APA relief Tax thereon NI contributions Child benefit	1997/98 30,000 4,045 25,955 275 5,847 2,160 1,042	1996/97 30,000 3,765 26,235 269 6,258 2,112 1,020	4,045 40,955 275 11,822 2,160 1,042	45,000 3,765 41,235 269 12,258 2,112 1,020	4,045 55,955 275 17,822 2,160 1,042	1995/97 60,000 3,765 56,235 265 18,255 2,112 1,020
1,048	NET INCOME Tax(reduction)/increase	23,310 (4.55%)	22,919 (£369)	32,335 (2.79%)	31,919 (£394)	41,335 (1.96%)	40,915 (£394)

GROSS ANNUAL INCOME Personal ellowance Taxable income Tax thereon	1997/98 10,000 5,400 4,600 935	1996/97 10,000 5,090 4,910 1,022	1997/98 15,000 5,400 9,600 2,085	1996/97 15,000 5,090 9,910 2,222	1997/98 20,000 4,045 15,955 3,547	1996/97 20,000 3,765 16,235 3,740
 NET INCOME Tax(reduction)/incrs	9,065 (8.51%)	8,978 (£87)	12,915 (6.17%)	12,778 (£137)	16,453 (5.16%)	16,260 (£193)
GROSS ANNUAL INCOME Investment income Personal allowance Taxable income Tax thereon	1996/97 25,000 15,000 4,045 35,955 9,668	1995/96 25,000 15,000 3,765 36,235 10,087	1996/97 30,000 15,000 4,045 40,955 11,818	1995/96 30,000 15,000 3,765 41,235 12,258	1996/97 35,000 15,000 4,045 45,955 13,822	1995/96 35.000 15,000 3,765 46,235 14,258

The following assumptions have been made: ¹Retired married wives receive state pension only, ²Calculations rounded to nearest pound. ²Class I National Insurance contributions (not contracted out), ⁴MCA Married couples allowance. APA Additional Personal Allowance. Figures compiled by KPMG Tax Advisers.

29,913 33,182 (£419) (3.59%)

Business gives its verdict: 'Sound, if unsurprising'



ARCHIE NORMAN



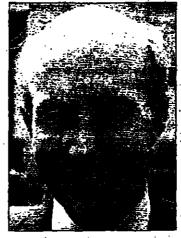
ANITA RODDICK



NICK HOOD



PETER JARVIS Chief executive, Whitbread



PETER BIRCH Chief executive, Abbey National



PETER DAVIS



JOE DWYER Chairman, George Wimpey

This is a robust Budget from a robust Chancellor for a robust economy. It is fiscally responsible and does not shirk from difficult issues such as profit-related pay. It is a good Budget for business and will be popular with ordinary working people shopping at Asda. st year the Chancellor gave 40,000 colleagues a tax break on their share options. This year 75.000 colleagues will welcome the extension of the 20p income tax band. We see this as a Budget for our customer, for Middle Britain. The reduction in spirit prices and no increases on beers and wines start to bring us in line with cross-Channel prices and are timely moves. As for alcopops? Well, Asda Brand is still better value by far!

Until you take the emphasis away from taxing people, either directly or indirectly, and put it on to taxing business that pollutes, you're wide of the mark. People see that a penny off income tax is added on somewhere else. They are clever enough to see that there is no extra money to be spent where it is needed. No wonder politicians use that same old battered tin box every year: it's the same Budget in a different guise, a Budget made of tin, without a heart. If this tin man is to get a heart, then political parties had better follow the road towards the progressive sustainable economic agenda that sensible economists regard as the way time to recycle this tin Budget.

The Chancellor has opted for a prudent Budget with various initiatives to reduce the tax burden on pri-vate individuals being mainly offset by revenue-raising measures in the corporate sector. I particularly welcome the reduction in employers' National Insurance contributions which should assist inward investment and job creation. I also applaud the proposed freezing of business rates for small businesses. With planned investment of the best part of El billion on capital and infrastructure maintenance over the next ten years, Wessex Water welcomes a stable economic and fiscal framework. The biggest threat to our customers and shareholders remains the Labour Party's ill-conceived proposed windfall tax.

The best I can say about the Chancellor's policies on drinks duty is that they are inconsistent. A few new customs officers will do nothing to stop the flow of illegal imports. The increase on alcoholic soft drinks is not a big issue for us as the sector only represents around I per cent of the market. The Budget package should en-able most people to have a little bit more to spend in their leisure time, which is good news for our restaurants, pubs and drinks shops. We are not so happy about phasing out profit-related pay. Overall, the Budget should pro-vide a mild stimulus for the economy, which gives us the confidence to continue our capital investment

This is a responsible Budget, showing that the Chancellor is not prepared to take a chance with inflation. Abbey National's 14 million customers and staff will be pleased with the fact that they will be paying less income tax. Obviously, other elements are less pleasing — for instance, the increase from two-and-a-half per cent to four per cent on the tax on premiums paid by custom-ers to insure their homes, cars and belongings. The gradual phasing out of tax incentives for profit-related pay is also disappointing, although it was not unexpected. Overall, the Budget represents just the right sort of touch on the tiller at this stage in the economic cycle.

With an election looming, this is a sound if unsurprising Budget. The would play neither Santa Claus nor Scrooge and refused to sacrifice long-term gain for a short-term benefit. I welcome the statement that the PSBR will be reduced next year, the prudent commitment to meeting the Maastricht criteria and the optimistic estimates of economic growth. From the insurance industry's perspective, the increase in insurance premium tax, although less than some expected, is disappointing. We welcome simplification of Inland Revenue rules and would suggest the application of the same principle to the equally complex pensions regime.

While there were no initiatives which will directly benefit housebuilding, it is a balanced Budget which should encourage steady growth in the economy and there-fore be welcomed. It was important that giveaways were limited so as not to put the economy at risk of too rapid growth, which would have increased pressure for interest-rate rises. However, the modest tax rates, along with continued low inflation and economic growth at current levels, may strengthen the "feel-good" factor which is so important to our business and accelerate the speed of the housing market recovery. Following the Budget, the anticipated recovery in the housing market will continue in 1997, and may possibly be heightened.

Cigarette duty increase 'will not halt smuggling industry'

Rise to discourage smoking

By Alasdair Murray

THE tobacco industry roundly criticised the Chancellor esterday after he imposed higher taxes on tobacco products, saying that the rises would not halt the flow of smuggled tobacco into the

Mr Clarke raised the price of an average packet of cigarettes by 15p, a packet of small cigars by 7p and pipe tobacco by 8p a pouch. The Chancellor, who admitted to the Commons that he enjoys an occasional cigar, justified the

smoking. However, the Government decided to limit the increase on a packet of rolling tohacco to inflation - about 5p to 6p a pouch - in an attempt to clamp down on smuggling estimated to be worth £425

million a year. Ian Birks, head of corporate affairs at Gallaher, said: "We are very disappointed with the increase. UK smokers already bear an unfair share of taxation." He added, however, that he did not expect to see any immediate fall in sales because "people are used to TOBACCO -

Gallaher is soon to be floated on the Stock Exchange by its US parent company, American Brands.

The City was largely unconcerned by the latest rise in prices, which analysts said had been expected. Shares in Imperial Tobacco, which was demerged from Hanson earlier this year, fell back 5p to close at 371.5p. BAT Industries, the other big UK tobacco company, was unaffected because it does not sell ciga-

that the freeze on the price of hand-rolling tobacco would have little impact on curbing smuggling as rolling tobacco remains about four times more expensive in the UK than in other European countries. The company said that the increase in cigarette prices could also encourage a rise in cigarette smuggling, estimated to be worth £135 million a

Clive Turner, executive director of the Tobacco Manufacturers Association, said: "We think smugglers will be laughing all the way to the

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duty on tobacco flies in the face of all the advice the Chancellor had from the industry and the retail trade about the risks to jobs and the

"The increase is peculiarly discriminatory. Tobacco is having to carry the can while alcohol escapes very lightly. Yet the Chancellor knows there is indisputable evidence that tobacco smuggling is already costing the revenue £600 million a year. Now it will escalate to a higher gear as criminals increasingly switch to smuggling cigarettes



Pressure groups believe that raising tax will not ease concern over alcopops

Whisky lobby cheered but higher alcopops tax is hailed as misplaced

THE Chancellor responded to concern about the growth in under age drinking by inc-reasing the tax on alcoholic soft drinks by 40 per cert from January I.

The move, which will increase the price of such "alcopops" as Hooch, Bacardi Breezer and Two Dogs by 7p or 8p a bottle to about £1.10, was greeted with concern by the brewing trade which fears its profits will suffer. The Brewers and Licensed Victual-lers' Association said: "We do not think it is right to tackle social problems through the tax system."

The increase falls well short of the 48p a bottle rise de-manded by Alcohol Concern to price alcopops beyond the reach of children. Lee Lixenberg, of Alcohol Concern, said: "We are not convinced that a few extra pence is going to deter under-age drinkers from buying alco-pops, many of which are stronger than beers and la-

However, John Browne of the Portman Group, ethical consultants to the drinks in-dustry, said: "We do not think the increase in tax on alcopops will make any difference to the problem of under-age drinking. The young people who are abusing alcohol drink beer. cider and spirits as well as

alcopops." In general, there were halfhearted toasts from the licensed trade for the Chancellor's new duties on alcohol. Only the Scotch Whisky Asso-

Westminster, expressed unalloyed pleasure: "We are absolutely delighted," said Tony Tucker, the association's spokesman. It is particularly gratifying that the Chancellor has taken on board the argument that high rates of duty at home are used abroad to

justify punitive rates there. The Chancellor referred to the issue again this year. which shows he appreciated the battles we have been having in Japan and Chile on this issue."

A freeze on the rate of duty on beer, though, seemed insufficient to the Brewers and Licensed Retailers' Association: "We are disappointed." a spokesman said. "The Chan-

cellor claims that the duty on beer is the lowest it has been for 30 years, but it is still seven times the rate in France - 4.2p a pint in France compared with an average of 31p here. Only the French lorry drivers

seem to be slowing down the smugglers.
"While the differential in rates of duty between France and Britain remains pubs will continue to close, jobs will be lost, and crime and fraud will

David Grant, chairman of the Wine and Spirit Associ-ation, claimed that the Chancellor's attack on carbonated alcoholic drinks would "virtually eliminate the long-estabished trade in light wines such as Italian Lambrusco. ciation, renowned as one of the Low alcohol sparkling wines.

most effective lobby groups in he had established, would be increase in duty for which newly invented carbonated drinks such as "alcoholic lemonade" were the principal target.
The Chancellor has shown

a complete lack of interest in the UK's domestic drinks trade," Mr Grant claimed. "Despite frequent references to cross-border shopping, he has done nothing to bring UK duty rates any nearer to those on the Continent. As far as he is concerned cross-border shopping is here to stay, and desperate attempts to increase surveillance will do little or nothing to curb the smuggling

and fraud that is an inevitable Mr Grant added that he was pleased by the "moderate" decrease in duty on spirits but the chancellor made it clear that was designed princi-

pally to aid UK exporters." Alcopops were launched in June 1995 with Hooper's Hooch, made by Bass, and Merrydown's Two Dogs. The market has since expanded at unprecedented speed with sales of £170 million expected this year.

The alcoholic fruit juices. which are currently taxed at 13p per 300ml bottle have been widely criticised for their appeal to under-age drinkers.
Their alcohol levels range from 4.1 to 5 per cent, which is as strong as Heineken Export (at 5 per cent) and higher than Woodpecker Circler (3.5 per cent). Because of their sweetness, the taste of alcohol in the drinks is almost completely



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Clarke launches 'green' offensive

صكنا من الدول

Costlier fuel gives drivers reason for switching to gas

By NICK NUTTALL AND KEVIN EASON

DRIVERS were given their petrol and diesel and switch to greener motoring. Kenneth Clarke imposed higher taxes on petrol and diesel but cut the duty on compressed natural gas in an effort to clean the air in towns and cities.

Using natural gas in conventional internal combustion engines would get rid of soot particulates, which are thought to cause thousands of deaths as well as breathing difficulties and heart disease, particularly in children. Other toxic gases from the exhaust

pipe are also greatly reduced. The Chancellor raised duty on petrol and diesel by 3p a litre to an average 62.7p, about 284.7p a gallon. Mr Clarke said: "I firmly believe that motorists should bear the full costs of driving - not only wear and tear and congestion on the roads, but also the wider environmental costs. Even those of us who frequently have to drive can take steps to cut fuel consumption and we all ought to consider carefully the use of our cars."

The Chancellor warned in 1993 that he would raise road fuel duties by an average of at least 5 per cent annually as part of Britain's commitment to curbing global warming. However, he cut the duty on natural and liquid petroleum gas by 25 per cent to reduce the price to the equivalent of 43p a litre or 195p a gallon. 🕡

A driver using natural gas, according to figures from the AA, would save about £200 a year on fuel over 8,000 miles. BMW makes gas cars on its production lines and its British subsidiary. Rover, said last night that it was ready to meet an upsurge in demand for

ALCICANG!

models using it. Earlier this month, the company delivered gas-powered car to John Major, converted at a cost of £2,500, the first governmentowned car to run on gas.

Mr Clarke also promised to reduce vehicle excise duty by up to £500 on larries which meet tougher pollution targets by 1998. Bus and truck operators will need to fit particulate traps or convert their vehicles to gas to meet the more stringent targets and reap the saving on road tax.

However, vehicle excise duty on cars will go up by £5 to £145 annually. New diesel fuel, with lower sulphur levels, producing less smoke and fewer particulates, will also be encouraged with plans for an

STOODS ...

THE Government's road programme was halved. with more than 100 planned bypasses, road widening and improvement schemes consigned to oblivion (Jonathan Prynn writes).

The roads lobby reacted with undisguised fury to the third deep cut in the programme in successive budgets. "This is a hit-and-run Budget catastrophe," said Richard Woods, a spokes-man for the RAC. "The Government is offering no solution to problems of congestion predicted in its

own traffic forecasts." However, Friends of the Earth, of which Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, is a member, wel-comed the cuts as very good news for the environment". In total 110 schemes

extra cut in duty of Ip a litre. rector at Velo, which operates about 50,000 vehicles, said: The Budget will add about £98 to the costs of typical drivers next year and cost business about £264 million. But everyone is going to sit up and take notice of what has happened over gas power and start trying to calculate whether it is worth making the

switch to the new fuel." Tom Gorman, chairman of the Natural Gas Vehicle Association, said the measures would "kickstart the market for natural gas" as a vehicle fuel, while British Gas said it was prepared to build, at no cost, fuel pumping stations for bus and lorry operators.

Malcolm Earnes, spokesman for the National Society for Clean Air, said: "The Chancellor should be congratulated. These measures are the most significant attempt to clean up road transport since the introduction of the tax differential on unleaded pet-rol." Roger Higman, of Friends of the Earth, added: This Budget is good news for air quality."

There are an estimated 300,000 gas-powered cars across Europe, but only 500 in Britain, mainly operated by British Gas. ☐ Vital investment in the Un-

derground network will have to be put on hold because of a one-third cut in government grant, Peter Ford, the chairman of London Transport, said yesterday. The cuts mean that hundreds of modernisation schemes had been placed in jeopardy, he said. Over the next three years the Treasury grant has been reduced from £1.7 billion to £1.1 billion with London Transport receiving only £130 million in government support by 2000.



Peter Crozier on land he rents from the Duchy of Cornwall. He fears fuel duties will hit farmers hardest

Farmers fear tax on vehicles

THE marginal seat of Devon West and Torridge yesterday gave a muted welcome to the Budget, but said that it did not go far enough. Such was their disillusion-

ment with the Tories, they said, that a few tax cuts would not persuade them to back the Government at the next election. The rural seat covers 1,000 square miles, making it the second largest geographically in England. Agriculture, manufacturing, transport, and banking and finance are the main sources of employment for the 74,000

Peter Crozier, 50, who is married with two children, is a tenant beef and sheep farmer on 1,700 acres of Duchy of Cornwall land near Dartmoor Prison. He said that although the Government was on the right track generally with the economy, the Budget did not do enough. "They take with one hand and give with the

DEVON WEST

Tories held 3,614 majority until defection to Lib-Dems by MP Emma Nicholson. Lib Dems need 2.8 per cent swing to win the seat

other." He attacked the increase in fuel duties, saying that they would hit farmers hardest. "It is a black day," he said.

Tourism is an important source of seasonal income for the constituency. Simon Boulter, 31, manages Lydord House Hotel and riding school, near Tavistock on the western edge of Dartmoor. As a self-employed businessman, he is instinctively Tory but admits to being distilusioned with the party.

He liked the tax cuts and especially the reductions in National Insurance for em-

ployers. The increase in personal allowances would help many part-time and seasonal workers in the tourist industry. He welcomed the freeze in the Uniform Business Rate but said it should be reduced.

The increase in petrol duty would hit tourists because public transport was poor in the constituency, Mr Boulter said. But he concluded: "I am encouraged. The picture the Chancellor painted is of a fairly bouyant economy and I think it is going in the

right direction." Tony Beer, 49, is a trawlerman and has a fish-processing business in Bideford. He is a lapsed Tory disillusioned by the Government's failure to help the fishing

He said the Budget did not persuade him to vote Conservative. "It hasn't done a lot for small businessmen. I just don't think it will get the economy back on its feet."

For the past 20 years Fred Bostock, 59, has run a garden centre in Oke-

hampton. Although he has tended to support the Tories, he is so disillusioned with the Government that he is likely to vote for the Liberal Democrats. He thought that business rates should be cut further and believed the fuel tax increase would hurt businessmen like him in a rural constituency.

Some 20,000 pensioners were registered in the constituency at the last census. Eileen King, 72, a widow in Tavistock, worked as a secretary, nurse and civil servant and has a healthy private pension. But she said that the Budget did nothing for pensioners, and the Government had not helped the unemployed or drivers. "I do think they are getting old and tired and are going round in circles. It is time we had a change in Govern-

Cut'won't create jobs but might save them'

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY AND OLIVER AUGUST

THE scaling-down of employ-ers' national insurance contributions (NIC) from the general rate of 10.2 per cent of earnings to 10 per cent will not create jobs, according to the Confederation of British Industry. Rather the measure would act to preserve them.

The cut, which will be funded by the expected £500 million a year payments from the landfill tax, was heralded in last year's Budget. Then Mr Clarke promised that the effects of the tax would be largely neutral and that it would be used to trim national insurance contributions from

Mr Clarke presented the

NATIONAL INSURANCE

NIC cut as a means of job creation and another instance of the Government working to reduce the burdens on business. But a spokesman for the CBl said: "This is not about job creation, but job saving. We are not expecting to see any significant change from

The landfill tax became effective on October 1, and is levied on deposits of waste and rubble in skips. Engineering companies and waste disposal services are expected to be the main payers of the new tax.

For every tonne of normal waste including household refuse they will have to pay £7, and for "inactive" waste such as bricks and rubble £2 per ton is being levied. Before the Budget it had been wrongly speculated that landfill tax rates could be raised.

The 10.2 per cent level of employers' contributions at present applies to pay over £210 per week. Contributions on pay below that is graded on lower levels going down to £61 per week, below which no contributions are paid.

Nothing new for the fortunes of floating voters

Budget to tie them closer to the Conservatives at the next election. They seemed happy with the income tax cuts, but regarded them and the changes in duty on drink and fuel as predictable. The gen-eral opinion was that it was a "steady as you go" Budget, with little in the way of novelties to attract the float-

neerea

ops lar

ing voter.

Michael Piff, 49, a mathematics lecturer at Sheffield University, who has voted Labour in the past, but is considering supporting the Liberal Democrats next time, said: "I don't think he has done enough to convince people that the Tories should stay in power. I don't think they will be conned by a few pence off tax. People will still be more inclined to look back over the past five years and see they are still worse off

today.

"Mr. Clarke talked about economic growth, but here in the university we have seen little sign of that. The extra money he says he is putting into the education system is just a drop in the ocean."
His wife, Sheila, 46, a tutor

in human communication disorders at the university, said: "The tax benefits were only modest. I think people will look at a wider context when the election comes, at their standard of living. where prices seem to be rising faster than income." Tim Hale, 43, who runs

Champion Hire, a firm with

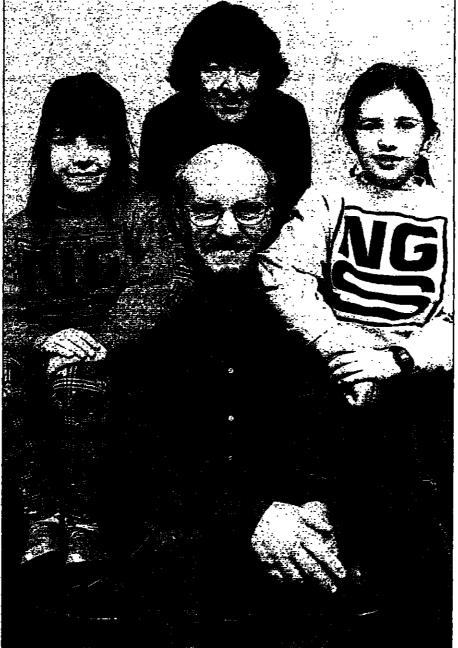
city. Won by Sir Irvine Patnick over Lib Dems at last general election 6,741 majority

50 employees leasing plant to the construction industry. liked Mr Clarke's showman ship. "It was humorous, full of great soundbites. From a political point he came over

as an honest chap."

But while he appreciated long-term projects such as the "spend to save" scheme to cut tax avoidance, Mr Hale, who voted Conservative last time, acknowledged there were few election giveaways. "I am not sure it would sway a floating voter, but there are things to encourage people. I like the personal tax changes, I welcome direct tax cuts, I like the idea of people having money to spend how they want." Anthony Buxton, a senior

ab technician at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, was not impressed. A bachelor, he describes himself as a floating voter, but thinks he will be supporting the Liberal Democrats. "Mr Clarke has not done much for people like me. I bought a diesel car ten years ago because it was supposed to be cheaper but the tax on it now is the same as petrol."



The Piff family: "I don't think people will be conned by a few pence off tax"

Benefits clampdown hits single mothers

By Dominic Kennedy, social affairs correspondent

be scrapped and 255,000 single people may be forced to move into bedsitters as the Chancellor struggles to contain the soaring social security

From 1998, divorced and unmarried mothers will have to manage on the same welfare benefits as couples with children. The move, which horrified anti-poverty cam-paigners, will affect 375.000 one-parent families and save £200 million by 2000.

One-parent benefit is worth £6.30 a week and lone-parent premium £5.20 to almost two million people, mainly mothers, raising children alone. Widows get other, more gener-

These two benefits will be frozen — a cut in real terms for the next year and will be incorporated into other benefits for existing claimants. They are never expected to be increased again and will be allowed to shrivel away. New claimants will have to cope on the same state help as couples with children.

Peter Lilley, the Social Sec-urity Secretary, said: "Re-search shows that the only substantial extra expense lone parents have over couples is the cost of childcare."

Karin Pappenheim, director of the National Council for One Parent Families, said yesterday: "One third of today's children will spend some period growing up in a lone parent family: following this Budget they will be looking at a much bleaker future."

In a dramatic and unexpect-

IT RISES TO EVERY OCCASION

ed change, single people under 60 will only be able to claim Housing Benefit at the average local rent for a single room - forcing many to leave larger properties and move into bedsits. This will affect 255,000 people and save £105 million.

Housing benefit rules will also be changed to hit those in more expensive and pleasant homes. In future, tenants will be able to claim only the average rent for a similar size home in their area, instead of what they actually pay, affecting 125,000 people and saving £25 million.

Benefit cheats, redundant executives and elderly disabled people bear the brunt of other trimmings in social sec-

LONE PARENTS

urity as ministers admit defeat in finding any radical alterna-tive to the traditional welfare state. An extra £470 million will be invested over the next three years in a "Spend to Save" package to combat ben-efit fraud, which is estimated to cost £3 billion a year.

Reforms of council tax benefit will hit middle-class families whose breadwinner becomes unemployed. People living in homes worth more than £120,000 (bands A to E) will have to pay towards their council tax even if they are out of work from 1998, affecting 65,000 households and saving £15 million a year. Currently their full tax is paid by the state if they fall on hard times. State pensions will rise in line with inflation of 2.1 per cent, giving single pensioners an their income to £62.45, and couples another £2.05 to provide them with £99.80. A host of strict new rules

and regulations will help to pay for a reduction in employers' National Insurance by 0.2 per cent to 10 per cent.

The waiting time for the jobseeker's allowance will increase from three days to seven days, leaving people to rely on their "week in hand" if they have one. Disabled people approaching 65 will be barred from getting Disability Living Allowance unless they remember to claim before their ö5th birthday.

Backdating of many benefits will be reduced substantially. Claimants will have to provide far more proof before receiving claims in future.

Kenneth Clarke's £91 billion is still the highest amount ever given to the Department of Social Security, which now accounts for a third of all public spending and costs the average working person El5 a day to maintain. Mr Clarke had to satisfy himself with holding the increase in spending to 1.5 per cent, which he said was lower than the aver-

age postwar 5 per cent.

Mr Lilley said the "spend to save" programme would reduce fraud by £7 billion in the next three years. He promised an extra 1.3 million visits to new benefit claimants. Harriet Harman, Shadow Social Security Secretary, said that Mr Lilley's promise was



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CASTELLBLANCH - CONDE DE CARALT - FREIXENET - SEGURA VIUDAS

Increase will still leave shortfall on current spending, say local authorities

School safety and universities will gain from £875m boost



Denis Wilkinson: said he was sick of the way smokers had to pay again

'It's a Budget for the rich'

By ALICE THOMSON POLITICAL REPORTER

STEVENAGE seemed unimpressed by the Budget. The town has seen a renaissance in the past year with shops reopening in the mall and companies relocating to the area. Unemployment is down to 6.8 per cent and 61 per cent of the 76,056 population live in homes bought by their families. But Labour is determined to win back the

Connie Rees, 70, who has lived in Stevenage for 40 vears with her husband and is a voluntary worker, said: "This is a Budget for the rich. Putting income tax down isn't going to help the most vulnerable. It doesn't inspire a sense of community or fairness. Putting more on petrol will penalise the old. voluntary workers and school children." She will STEVENAGE

Battleground between Labour and Tories since town ago. Held by Tory backbencher Tim backbencher Tim Wood (4,888 maj).

Denis Wilkinson, 55, married with two children, and personnel manager for Marconi Instruments, said: "I wanted far more for the NHS and education. Unless we invest in our children we will not have skills for the next century. No one will notice the Ip tax reduction.7 A smoker and drinker, he said: "I am also sick of the way that smokers are expect-

been hit harder. I will vote Labour again.'

ed to pay so much for their

shaving-brush company. and a wavering Tory said he would return to the fold. -1 am very pleased with the Budget. Married families benefit at last and he |the Chancellor managed to spend money on key areas like law and order, education and health."

Richard Aston-Wright, 31. a contract monitoring officer with the council, has two children and is a staunch Tory. This is not a vote-winning Budget, a lot of poorer people won't be happy. Three pence on a litre of petrol is hell of a lot but the drop on spirits is handy. I will vote Tory but that is because i don't trust Labour not to go back to their old ways." He said personally he would benefit from the Budvice. Fat cats should have get but his wife. Tamera, 25. who is on profit-related pay with Rank Xerox, will be hit But John Chapman. 49. when it is no longer tax free

EDUCATION EDITOR

EDUCATION was given top priority in the Chancellor's spending plans for 1997-98. Schools, colleges and universi-ties will receive £875 million more than this year's planned

The 3.6 per cent increase is still below the amount local authorities said they needed to maintain current school spending. But Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said the settlement represented a success in a tight expenditure

Among the areas earmarked for more money are school security, which will receive £60 million in total in the wake of the Dunblane massacre. Local authorities will be expected to find 40 per

cent of the cash.

Kenneth Clarke has also acted to restore part of last year's cuts in further and higher education. Universities and colleges will share an extra £280 million over the next two years, although they will still face a squeeze on funding levels compared with their spending in 1994-95. Another ESO million will go

into school building and repairs, half of which will come from the Department for Education and Employment Mr Clarke acknowledged that the current state of some school premises was "very poor".

The bulk of the extra money will go to relieve the pressure on schools' recurrent budgets: the local authority associations have estimated that they are already spending more than the additional sum of £633 million earmarked by the Chancellor.

However, Mrs Shephard said it was for local authorities to decide how much to devote to education. Mr Clarke said too many authorities were already diverting cash meant for schools into other areas.

The Chancellor expects to raise about £3 billion from the EDUCATION

sale of debts accumulated by the Student Loans Company. Education will keep the first year's share of the anticipated receipts, which should account for almost all of the increase

secured by Mrs Shephard.

Among the other changes are an increase of £22 million in support for assisted places to reflect an expansion of the scheme, which funds independent school places for children from low-income families. Grant-maintained schools will also receive £15 million more.

However, the money set aside to pay for nursery vouchers has been cut by £56 million. Mrs Shephard said the allocation still represented £129 million of new money for ional in April, but this now reflected a more accurate as-

AGRICULTURE

By MICHAEL HORNSBY AGRICULTURE. CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT £1.8 billion is to be spent over the next health of humans and animals against "mad cow" disease

This will be on top of El.5 billion already provided for this year in the battle against bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, said, "Public safety is my priority, and the high level of funding allocated ... re-

flects that," he said. The additional expenditure has been set at £730 million in 1997-98, falling to £580 million in 1998-99 and £490 million in 1999-2000. Without these extra costs, expenagriculture would have declined in real terms over the next three years.

Welcoming proposed increased compensation for upland cattle farmers, Sir David Naish, president of the National Farmers' Union, said: "I am delighted the Government took on board

sion to phase out tax relief on

all profit-related pay (PRP) schemes will hit the wage

packets of at least 3.7 million

workers, many of them the

The abolition will eventual-

ly leave higher-rate taxpayers

up to £1.600 a year worse off.

Basic rate taxpayers will lose up to £960. However, the

reductions will not start until

1998; Mr Clarke said: "No one

PRP schemes, made eligible

for tax relief by Nigel Lawson

in 1987, embrace all staff

levels. Members are allowed a

tax-free payment of up to

£4,000 a year, or 20 per cent of salary, whichever is smaller.

According to the Inland Reve-

nue, the average is less than

If Mr Clarke's proposals become law, the £4,000 tax-

free maximum will remain until January 1, 1998. Then it

will be limited to £2,000, becoming £1.000 in 1999 and

At Boots, the retail group

based in Mr Clarke's home

city of Nottingham, an aver-

age employee earning £10,000

will be £202 worse off after the

abolition. Boots was one of the

first companies to take up Mr

Lawson's offer of tax breaks.

The bonus scheme eligible for relief covers 50,000 staff, many of them part-time.

A Boots spokesman, said:

To take £200 from the aver-

age employee is clearly a bit

The change also drew criti-

cism from the John Lewis

Partnership, the retail group,

where all 36,000 permanent

stall are partners with access to a profit-sharing scheme.

Stuart Hampson, chair-

man, said: "I am astonished.

We should be continuing to

encourage more firms to bring

disappointing.

£1,400 a year.

zero in 2000.

will be affected before then."

lower paid.

our concerns."

four-year-olds likely to benefit from vouchers.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, said the reduced plans for nursery provision showed that the Government was not guaranteeing places for all four-year-olds. "The Tories are betraying Britain's toddlers and their parents," he

Teaching unions claimed that the Government was exaggerating the generosity of the settlement. A spokeswoman for the National Union of Teachers described the increase as a "sticking plaster

which will not cover the cuts". But university vice-chancellors were relieved that their campaign to reverse last year's cuts had been at least partially successful. The concessions may help to stave off the introduction of tuition fees. which the vice-chancellors are to discuss next week.

☐ The Government yesterday announced an Americanstyle, jobs programme for the long-term unemployed and confirmed the expansion of its version of American "workfare" in Britain (Philip Bassett

Mrs Shephard fully confirmed the expansion of the project work pilots, which some have seen as modelled on US-style workfare pro-grammes, under which unemplayed people work, or lose their social benefits. The pilots, originally tried in a couple of areas, will now be expanded to 29.

But the Government also announced in the Budget a new scheme, Contract for Work, aimed at long-term unemployed people. Full de-tails of the scheme will be disclosed soon, though it will focus on the "private sector's talent for innovation to help longer term unemployed people back to work".

Three or four pilots will be started, probably in large cities, offering places to about 6,000 people. Private-sector companies involved will be paid by the scheme only if people on it get jobs, and stay

Mrs Shephard said that together, the two programmes would offer up to 100,000 "opportunities" to unemployed people most in need of help. Labour said the moves offered little of practical value

success, rather than saying the

promotion of profit sharing

About four million workers

are thought to get tax-free

14,000 registered schemes.

The intention was to encour-

age staff productivity while

reducing company wage bills.

ceived at first, but increasing

popularity since 1991 created a

huge drain on the Exchequer's

resources - the cost of relief in

the current year has been

estimated at £1.5 billion. The

cost was exacerbated by firms

bending the rules which stipulated that payments under PRP could not be guaranteed.

In some cases, artificial sub-

to manage the profit stream.

PRP: there are more than

Loss of relief to

hit profits pay

KENNETH CLARKE'S deci- involvement in commercial

DEBT INTEREST £24,800m (£22,200m) JNEMPLOYMENT (£14,300m) (£2,500m) OTHER (£3,480m)

TOTAL PUBLIC SPENDING 1997-1998 Public spending divided up according to the Government department SPENDING GAIN DEPARTMENT 1997/98 (1996; 97)£79,740m £2,250m

HOUSING &

SCOTLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND (£29,360m)

HOME OFFICE £6,780m (£6,550m)

£21,810m (£21,420m)

HEALTH £34,940m (£33,970m)

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT

(£2,340m)

PRP SCHEMES

Mr Clarke said the scheme had been a temporary mea-

"pump-priming" purpose. Mr Clarke also said there could not be a two-tier tax system, where 22 million people pay more income tax just because they are not members of PRP schemes.

The Government says the abolition will yield £100 mil-lion in 1997-1998, £1,700 million in 1999-2000 and £3,100 million in 2000-2001.

But many in the City were suprised. Many thought the spiralling cost of PRP would be tackled by removing just higher-rate tax relief. Philip Fisher, of Chantrey

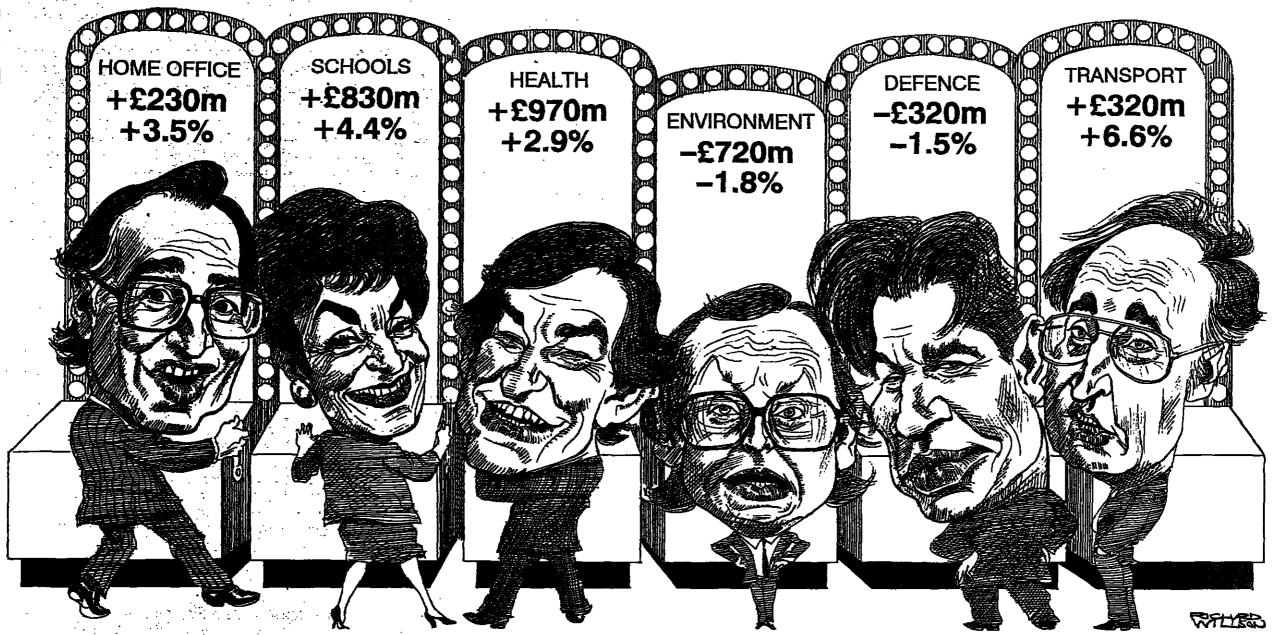
said companies would have to pay an extra 3-4 per cent in wages to maintain take-home pay levels of the workforce. potential 100,000-125,000 inAGRICULTURE (£4,410m) TRANSPORT £5,910m (£4,870m) FURTHER EDUCATION & TRAINING (£14,810m) TRADE & INDUSTRY (£3,250m) £3.170m (£3,270m)

> £13,700m (£13,300m)

DEPARTMENT £2,710m (£2,730m) LOCAL



Howard, Shephard, Dorrell and Young get more money while Lilley and Portillo must take a cut



Health and education win the battle for funds

By JILL SHERMAN CHIEF POLIFICAL CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH, education and law and order emerged yesterday as the clear winners in the annual battle with the Treasury over next year's public spending.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, walked off with the top prize an extra £1.6 billion but Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, and his main rival for more money, scooped up an extra £875 million. Michael Howard, the Home Secre-tary, won an additional £450 million for more police officers and

The higher than expected rises for the three departments, which the Chancellor had always earmarked as a priority, have been offset by cuts in other less popular

departments, Transport, Defence, National Heritage and Environment have been the main victims of the Treasury knife, which has pared £L9 billion next year and £7 billion over three years.

Earlier this month Mr Dorrell demanded an extra El billion from William Waldegrave, the Chief Treasury Secretary, as NHS trusts warned they would have to close beds and wards due to cash shortages. Following a highly publicised dispute, a rare insight into this year's public spending round, Mr Dorrell received £970 million in real terms.

However, the quid pro quo is a 16 per cent drop in capital spending on hospitals and a much lower than expected estimate for private finance. Prescription charges will also go up by 15p from next April to £5.65. Mr Dorrell also appears to

have suffered in plans for future spending.

Despite John Major's pledge at the Conservative Party conference that spending on health would rise in real terms for the next five years, the Budget Red book shows below inflation increases from 1998.

Gillian Shephard, who secured over £800 million last year for schools, appeared to have gained another unexpected coup. Last year Mrs Shephard went public through a leaked letter warning of the impact of restraints in spending. This year, after a spat with the Prime Minister over the benefits of caning, she was more contrite, but still won a substantial chunk of public funds. Mrs Shephard has also won £100 million to expand pilot workfare schemes.

However critics were quick to point out that the allocation, more than £700 million higher than planned, could result in higher council tax bills. Mr Clarke admitted said most of the £633 million in local education spending would go in spending assessments to local authorities. Universities may also argue that the extra £280 million for higher education will not be enough to stop the threat of charges for tuition fees.

Mr Howard has gained £40 million to recruit an extra 2,000 police officers by the end of next year, a first stop towards a pledge to recruit 5,000 officers. The Prison Service gains an extra £230 million with the aim of providing 8,600 new prison places by March 2000.

Mr Clarke's spending bonanza concealed the abolition of two social security benefits from 1998. Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, made clear when he took

"financial incentives" for lone parenthood. Last year he froze their benefits, but tomorrow he will announce that new claimants will lose both single parent premium (£5.20 a week) and single parent benefit (£6.30 a week) from 1998.

They will instead get the standard rate paid to married couples. Mr Lilley, the rightwinger who heads Whitehall's highest spend-ing department, has managed to stave off further benefit cutbacks, by renewing his crackdown on benefit fraud, which he hopes will save several billion pounds.

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, has again suffered deep cuts in his roads budget, with the Government's long-term programme effectively shelved. The original £20 billion roads project has dwindled to a mere £6 billion.

higher than expected cash for railway privatisation to ensure that one of the flagship projects of this Parliament succeeds.

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, is also a big loser for the second year running with cuts in the housing programme. The Government has reduced money for the Housing Corporation but has insisted that the reductions can be offset by extra private finance for

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary has also failed to protect his budget from further cutbacks, although he has argued that frontline services will be protected. There were few rich pickings for

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary or the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashiern. Mrs Bottomley's budget mainly because of rescheduling payments for Welsh Channel 4. while Lord Mackay's cutbacks

reflect curbs in legal aid.

Mr Clarke held out the prospect of much higher long-term savings through a £800 million "spend to save" scheme, which he argued would raise between £6 billion to £7 billion in three years through combating fraud and tax evasion. There will be a further squeeze on Whitehall running costs and a public sector pay freeze.

Next year's overall public spending has been reduced from the £268 billion agreed last July to £260.5 billion, up £0 billion from this year.

Over the next two years, the Chancellor has forecast rises to £273.7 billion in 1998-99 and £280.9 billion the following year.



Jacqui Elmslie: Budget "discriminates against everyone in Scotland"

Highland gloom at petrol rise masks Scotch delight

CHEAPER petrol. lower whisky excise duty and re-lief from high heating bills formed the Budget wish list for the constituents of Inverness East, Nairn and

The 26p cut on a bottle of Scotch brought whoops of delight from the Scotch Whisky Association but the 3p a litre rise on petrol and diesel aroused accusations of an "anti-Scottish" budget that would not win votes in this four-way marginal scat. Jacqui Elmslie, who runs Clach Mhuilinn guest house in Inverness, voted Labour at the last election. "The Conservatives always talk about the Tartan Tax but this Budget discriminates against everyone in Scotland," she said. "The increase in diesel will raise the

Vehicle fuel is already 10p to 15p a litre more expensive in remote parts of the Highlands, where a car is a necessity and the majority of goods are delivered by road. convinced me to do other-

delivered here."

INVERNESS EAST

Held by Lib Dems with 458 majority. Seat could tall four ways at general election. Region's long-term unemployment is 25.3

Public transport is scarce. Mrs Elmslie, secretary of the Inverness and District B&B Association, said the fuel rise, combined with increased airport passenger tax, would discourage tourism, which employs 13 per cent of the region's workforce. There would also be no relief from higher heating bills.

The budget was "good and bad news" for Martin cost of food and everything and Sally Moore, of Inverness Fish Farming Mr Moore, 42, who voted Conservative last time, said: "It is not that the Budget will make me vote Conservative, more that Labour has not

wise." The father of three said extra spending on edu-cation was vital in a region where council-run schools were the only option. But the rise in diesel fuel, at 2.5 times the rate of inflation, would hit his business. The Scotch Whisky Asso-

ciation said the industry had got what it asked for. Steve l'ulewicz, 50, malt distilleries manager at Dalmore Distillery, Alness, said: This helps the whisky industry by taking us towards a level playing field with other drink products such as wine and beer and it takes us closer to European

Last year's 4 per cent cut increased United Kingdom sales by 6 per cent and boosted Treasury revenue by £2 million. Mr Tulewicz said he would vote Conservative again.

Alasdair Mathieson, 46, a vet, said the Budget would not change his Liberal Democrat vote. "A 3p increase on fuel is a lot but apart from that it's a non-Budget."

Small businesses regret Clarke's 'lost opportunity'

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent businesses, especially in capi-

tal allowances

navroll costs."

per cent a year.

ducing the allowance.

the oil industry.

intensive industries, such as

His views were echoed by

the CBI. Tony Bonner, chair-

man of the CBI's small and

medium enterprise council.

said that the moves on corpo-

ration tax and the uniform

IAN LANG, President of the Board of Trade, told directors last night that Kenneth Clarke had delivered a "Budget for small business". Small business groups disagreed, arguing that they had needed more differential treatment from the Chancellor.

Mr Lang told an Institute of Directors dinner that the Budget had produced measures to lp smaller companies: "Many of these measures were recommended by the IoD in its pre-Budget wish-list."

Small businesses gain from Budget tax and rate reductions. They receive a reduction in the tax on profits from 24p to 23p. The Treasury has calculated that that should benefit three million self-employed people by a little over £3 a week. The rate of corporation tax for small business has also been cut from 24p to 23p, a move that will affect 85 per cent of tax-paying companies. Business rates for small

companies will be frozen next year in a move that will affect 1.3 million smaller businesses. That move will go some way towards placating small retailers who have complained of a harsh squeeze on profitability because of business rates.

On top of the tax and rate reductions, the smallest companies have also seen the threshold for VAT registration increase from a turnover of £47,000 to £48,000.

Brian Prime, policy unit chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses, said the Budget had proved a mixed blessing. "While the freezing of the uniform business rate is welcome, we had hoped for a reduction," he said, adding: "Many small retailers are being put out of business because of these rates. Mr Prime said the Budget had not gone far enough in recognising the different needs of small

AN EXTRA 2,000 police officers on the beat and 8,600 more prison places are promised as spending on law and

By STEWART TENDLER

order rises by £450 million. The Home Office allocation for next year is estimated at E6.7 billion against an expected bill for this financial year of £6.5 billion. Home Office sources said the extra £450 million will be created by a combination of new money and savings on admin-

istrative costs. Under the plans, police will get a rise of 3.7 per cent in spending next year which will be worth about £220 million.

2,000 extra **bobbies** on beat

The figure includes a special allocation of £40 million to fund another 2,000 officers as part of the Prime Minister's pledge to get another 5,000 beat officers on the streets over three years.

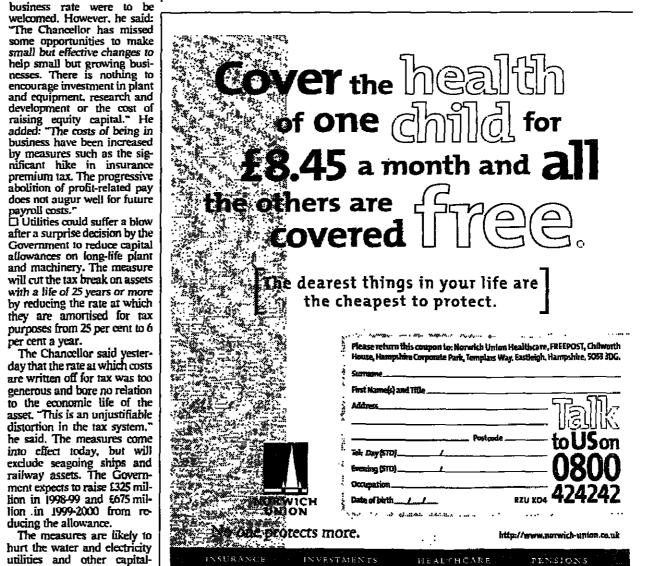
Police authorities had asked for a 6 per cent rise and chief constables lobbied for 4.7 per cent. Individual

awards to forces will be

known later today. The Police Federation welcomed the money for additional officers: The Federation has been campaigning for extra manpower for several years. The money must be concentrated on the beat, where officers are

closest to the public." The prison increases are planned to come in gradually

The new places will be the equivalent of 14 new prisons and include 3.000 places in new blocks in existing prisons. 720 places in portable buildings and 3,700 places in five new prisons, including three privately run establish-



Ebullient Chancellor looks forward to growth, prosperity,

We need an economic policy for the next five years, not next five months

he British economy is today prosperous and successful. This Budget will make it even more prosperous and an even higger success over the coming

years.
When I presented my first Budget in 1993, it was against a very different background from today. Although the recovery had begun, consumer confidence had not yet returned. Growth was not yet firmly established. Further firm

action was needed on the public finances, and our critics were peddling doom and gloom.

The recovery is now in its fifth year. Consumer confidence has returned and we are achieving something unprecedented for a generation — growth with low inflation and without a widening trade gap. But one thing has not changed: our critics still peddle doom and gloom.

In my first two Budgets I curbed

the growth of public spending and took firm decisions on tax, which have brought borrowing down by almost half since 1993. Last year, in my third Budget, I was able to return to cutting tax while spending more on the public services that people care about most — health, schools and the police — and keeping borrowing on a firm downward path.

This year, I am presenting a Budget that builds on my last three.

It reduces public spending plans further while providing more money for priority services. It makes responsible progress on our tax-cutting agenda while getting borrowing down faster. This is not a reckless Budget on tax or spending. In the run-up to Christmas I am not going to play Santa Claus, but this year I do not have to play Scrope either.

Scrooge either.

I have one overriding aim: the lasting health of the economy. We are securing that by creating the best conditions for British businesses and men and women to earn a living. All my Budgets and all my policies have been designed to set this country on course to be the strongest industrial economy in Western Europe.

ECONOMY

the British economy is in its fifth successive year of steady, healthy economic growth, with falling unemployment and low inflation. These are the best circumstances we have faced for a generation. This is a Rolls-Royce recovery — built to last.

Rolls-Royce recovery — built to last.
The IMF and the OECD expect the UK to be the fastest-growing major European economy again next year. By then we will have grown faster than France or Germany five years in succession for the first time unlike a monty exert.

This time, unlike so many previous recoveries, healthy growth has been accompanied by the best inflation performance for nearly 50 years. And restrained growth of earnings has been good news for index

jobs.
The British labour market has become our flexible friend. Employment began to rise sooner and unemployment began to fall sooner than in the previous recovery. Growth creates jobs quicker in a flexible labour market.

The OECD has praised us for having one of the least regulated labour markets in the industrialised world. High social overheads, minimum wages and unnecessary legislation do not protect workers; they cost jobs. Unemployment is still rising in France and Germany. It has fallen sharply here, to its lowest levels for more than 5½ years.

In the bad old days recoveries were derailed by balance of payments crises. In this recovery, the current account has actually improved, despite the slowdown in our main European markets. In fact, we now have a current account broadly in balance — our best overall trading performance for nearly ten years.

ECONOMIC POLICY

want to ask the British people: in the years ahead do we seriously want to be prosperous? I think we do. If so, we need an economic policy aimed at the next five years, not just at the next five months. We want an economic policy that will go on delivering our enviable combination of rising prosperity, low inflation and more jobs. That is my purpose in this Budget. This Budget secures a prosperous future for all sections of our people and their families. It is a Budget not just for today but for tomorrow. This is a sensible Budget for growing prosperity.

The last thing the British economy needs now is a change of direction. We need at least another five years of this Government's continuous vigilance on inflation. We need more of this Govern-

ment's determination to reduce government borrowing. We need another five years of

We need another five years of this Government's commitment to raise the wealth-creating potential of the economy, by improving incentives, reducing the role of the State and creating a climate for enterprise.

I expect the economy to grow by 2.5 per cent this year and 3.5 per cent next year, and there are few serious commentators who will disagree with that. By keeping a close eye on the prospects for inflation up to two years out, and by taking sensible early action if and when necessary. I intend to ensure that healthy growth continues without inflationary pressures emerging. That is what I have always promised: no return to boom and bust.

I expect consumers' expenditure to continue to be the main engine of growth next year. The real value of take-home pay is growing strongly. The housing market recovery is firmly established. I hope that negative equity can soon be consigned to the economic history books. People are feeling the improvement in their family finances. Consumer confidence is at its highest levels for more than eight

I expect consumer spending to grow by 3 per cent in 1996 as a whole. But it has been strengthening through the year. I expect stronger growth to continue, with consumers' expenditure rising by more than 4 per cent next year.

INVESTMENT

his recovery is not just about a more confident consumer, however. Businesses are optimistic, too. The climate for business is excellent: strong demand at home and a recovery in our key export markets present British industry and commerce with tremendous opportunities.

Interest rates and tax rates remain low and profitability, is high. The result has been business investment growth of 6 per cent so far this year. I expect business investment to continue to grow strongly: by almost 10 per cent next year.

These excellent conditions for business are not lost on overseas companies looking to invest for the future. Let us never forget the most valuable practical endorsement that we get for our sound economic policies. The UK remains the No 1 destination for inward investment into the European Union. Keeping our enterprise economy on course at the heart of Europe will keep us in pole position.

EXPORTS

most 20 per cent over the last two years — an impressive performance in the face of weak demand in our key European markets. This achievement is down to our strong cost-conscious British exporters. They will benefit further next year as the tentative recovery on the Continent becomes more established. I expect export volumes to rise by more than 7 per cent this year and 6 per cent next year.

The current account has been close to balance during the last 2½ years, thanks to strong growth in exports and income from our investments overseas. I expect the current account to remain broadly in balance this year and next.

Our thriving economy is creating

Our thriving economy is creating jobs. Employment has risen by more than 750,000 since the recovery began. Unemployment has fallen by almost a million from its peak. It will soon drop through the two million mark. This is still too high and I want it to go on falling and I expect it to go on falling.

INFLATION

e are on course to get underlying inflation down to our target of 2.5 per cent or less and to keep it there. In October, underlying inflation rose slightly, to just more than 3 per cent. This should not have surprised anybody who looked at last year's statistics. It is a temporary and inevitable reflection of the exceptional falls in the price level 12 months before.

Let me give you my concrete reasons for being so confident about low inflation. Apart from oil prices, which have risen sharply, commodity prices are steady and are not putting upward pressure on inflation. Earnings growth remains sensible and modest. Producer price inflation — a good indicator of what is in the pipeline for retail price inflation — is at its lowest levels since the 1960s. Producer input prices are actually lower than they were a year ago.

Any risk to this recovery from inflationary pressures re-emerging

inflationary pressures re-emerging remains a good way off. But as I have demonstrated again and again, when I see any risks I will act. I will continue to stay ahead of the game on monetary policy. Eddie [George] will keep me steady and I will continue to be canny.

I expect underlying inflation to meet our target of 2.5 per cent or less. I will ensure that it goes on meeting that target for the foreseeable future.

PSBR

ood progress has been made in reducing public-sector borrowing, but not as fast as I expected. The Budget therefore targets public-sector borrowing: One reason why I continue to concentrate so heavily on public-sector borrowing in setting policy is because money spent paying the interest on our debt would be better spent on public services and to reduce taxes.

We are making good progress on bringing down borrowing, but lower than expected tax revenues mean that it has not fallen as fast as I expected in the last Budget. This is not bad news for everyone. People

6 Government borrowing has been coming down for three years. This Budget will ensure it keeps coming down 9

are no doubt quite glad not to be paying as much tax as I expected. As I am the Chancellor, I prefer to keep any tax cuts under my control.

The causes of these shortfalls in

The causes of these shortfalls in our forecasts of tax revenue, primarily on VAT but also on direct taxes, cannot wholly be explained by any experts inside or outside the revenue departments. But there does seem to be an increasing tendency to exploit loopholes and use special reliefs in an artificial way to reduce tax bills. Those sort of tax cuts are unacceptable. If they are not tackled every year in the Budget they mean that a few people pay less tax but the rest must pay more.

In this Budget I will propose a number of measures to stem tax leakage, to protect the ordinary taxpayer and make sure we get the right tax from the right people. When I reduce tax I want to do so in a way that is fair for businesses and fair for the hardworking man and woman.

Government borrowing has been steadily coming down for three years. This Budget will ensure it keeps coming down. I expect the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement to be £26.5 billion this year. That will mean it has halved as a share of GDP over the past three years. I expect it to come down to £19 billion next year and to be broadly in balance by 1999-2000.

That pattern of declining borrowing is very much better than the one I had to put in my Summer Economic Forecast last July — £4 billion better next year. A large part of that improvement is the result of the measures I am taking in this Budget. This Budget tightens fiscal policy. I am tightening fiscal policy now to reduce the risk of having to tighten monetary policy excessively as I set policy to hit my inflation

My decisions are always taken solely in British interests to benefit the British economy. But my decisions in this Budget also mean that, by happy coincidence, we will meet the Maastricht debt and deficit criteria in 1997, and we will do even better than that in the medium term. It is a happy coincidence because those criteria make sound economic sense, with or without a single currency. Our option whether to join or stay out of a single currency, based on British national interest, remains a genuine choice for the next Parliament to exercise, when the time comes.

This Government is the champion of sound public finances, of limited government and of low taxation. Our combination of low taxation, low public spending and low debt is the best in Europe. We intend to stay in that enviable position. We can only do this if we continue to bear down on public spending.

PUBLIC SPENDING

In the 1980s, across the rest of Europe, the modern state remorselessly took an ever greater share of almost every nation's wealth. We in Britain held the line. The proportion of GDP going into government spending in the UK is now 8 per cent lower than the average in the rest of the European Union. If our spending had risen to their levels we would now have to raise nearly £2,300 a year more in tax from every household.

I have set a target of 40 per cent or below for the share of national income that goes on public spending. Making progress towards this target means tough decisions on public spending, every year. But this year we have had to cope with the costs of BSE, and larger than expected increases in the costs of social security as more and more elderly and disabled people receive benefits to which they are entitled.

benefits to which they are entitled.

Against this background, we had to keep the rest of public spending within the tightest possible limits in order for us to spend more on the public services people really care about — education, combating crime and the health service.

This country has been well served by my Right Honourable Eriend the Chief Secretary who has successfully tackled this problem. Despite all the difficulties, we have been able to reduce public spending plans over the next three years by a further £7 billion in this Budget. Public spending next year will be more than £24 billion lower than was projected when I became Chancellor — a reduction of 7 per cent.

We have been able to reduce spending plans because we have lower inflation, falling unemployment, a continuing campaign for efficiency in the public sector and sensible policy priorities. On top of that, the Government's relentless drive against fraud and abuse of tax and benefits will be stepped up another gear.

another gear.

Next year we are going to meet our target of 40 per cent for the share of national income that goes on public spending. In last year's Budget I said I would make 40 per cent in 1997-98. This year's Budget secures that important goal. So long as we keep the growth in public spending down below the growth in the economy, we will go below that

EDUCATION

ducation is the key to the future of any prosperous and civilised society. It helps to determine how well the economy performs in the long run. It also helps to determine the sort of citizens we are and the sort of society we have. This Government Continued on facing page



personal security with a re-elected Conservative government

From facing page is committed to raising standards in education. As a result of last year's Budget £878 million extra was provided for schools this year. We are giving schools priority again in this Budget. Planned expenditure on schools will rise by another £830 million next year. A large proportion of this money, £633 million, will be channelled

through the local authorities. Judging by last year's experience, some local authorities are reluctant to pass these increases on to their schools, preferring to spend the money on other areas. It is no good local authorities campaigning for more spending on education in the autumn and then spending their money on other things in the spring. Parents will want to make sure their local authorities spend money on the things they want for their children — good teachers and better-equipped schools.

A good school has a value far and beyond its buildings. But the quality of school buildings in which our children are taught is still very important. We will be providing an extra £50 million on top of the previously planned provision for more capital investment to improve the fabric of our schools.

By setting high standards for schools and increasing choice for parents, this Government is delivering better-trained and betterqualified young people. Almost one in three young people now goes on to university, compared with one in eight in 1979. And our universities and colleges maintain some of the highest standards in the world despite the pressure on their unit costs that this unprecedented explosion of opportunity for young. people has produced.

But I recognise this pressure and I also realise that our universities and colleges make an important. contribution to the economy. My Budget therefore includes £280 million to boost further and higher education over the next two years. This includes an extra £20 million next year for science equipment We want to ensure that the British science research base remains the best in the world, which it certainly is at the moment.

As the Education and Employment Secretary announced in Sep-tember, the Government is planning a substantial sale of student loans debt. It makes no sense for the Government to keep a: huge portfolio of loans on its books when the private sector could manage it more effectively and isbetter placed to cope with the risk. The sale will have no effect on the terms on which students can get loans. The substantial reduction in the figures for education that members will find published in the new spending plans is more than accounted for by the sale of this debt. We will actually spend more on the things that really matter educating our children and young

COMBATING CRIME

This Government believes that effective law and order is an essential part of making Britain a nation at ease with itself. A good-quality police service and an effective system of criminal justice are high on the list of this Government's priorities.

When it comes to spending on law and order this Government has a record as long as your arm. Spending has already doubled in real terms since 1979, Provision for combating crime - police and prisons — will now rise by another £450 million next year. Our plans provide for 2,000 more police constables by the end of next year. We are well on course to meet the Prime Minister's pledge for 5,000 more constables.

HEALTH

ur health service, with treatment free at the point of delivery, is the envy of the world. In every modern civilised society the demand for better healthcare, for new techniques to save lives and improve our quality of life grows constantly. This Government completely understands that. That is why we have increased spending by some 75 per cent in real terms since 1979. That is why the Prime Minister has pledged more resources for the National Health Service in real terms every year throughout the next Parlia-

so it is much better managed and much more efficient. When waste is reduced, more can be directed to higher quality patient care. This means that patients get more treatment and care out of every pound that we spend.

For next year, we will increase current spending on patient services by £1.6 billion, or 2.9 per cent in real terms. The real increase in current spending for hospitals next year over and above inflation will be 3 per cent. On top of this, Private Finance Initiative investment will play an increasingly important role in providing new healthcare facili-ties. The PFI contract for the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital scheme, worth close to £200 million, was signed yesterday and others will follow. PFI investment in the NHS will reach some £900 million over the next three years on top of the increased public spend-

ing I am amnouncing.

The NHS will continue to grow and continue to improve. We are totally committed to the National Health Service as a public service providing high-quality up-to-date treatment, free at the point of delivery. By our decisions on public spending we prove that the NHS remains at the top of the Government's priorities. The NHS has. been safe in our hands and it will always be safe in our hands.

OTHER SCHEMES

This year's spending round was as tight as any I can Temember, eye-wateringly tight, but we never lost sight of our objective which is to sustain and improve the key public services that the British people care about education, combating crime and our health service. In part we have achieved that by increasing efficiency within the priority services but inevitably we have also had to find

savings in other programmes.
Falling unemployment and lower inflation have helped to reduce the social security and employment programmes. We are also continuing to transfer activities to the private sector where this is more efficient, as it is for student loans. We have refocused the housing programme to encourage the use of private finance and the transfer of the local authority housing stock to the private sector. We are stepping up our programmes against fraud. We are continuing our remorseless squeeze on the costs of bureaucracy

6 This Government believes that effective law and order is an essential part of making Britain at ease with itself 9

itself. And we have looked in every department for ways of achieving our objectives more economically. With efficiency savings, most de-partments will be able to deliver their programmes next year, but with less money in real terms.

PRIVATE FINANCE

cople pay their taxes in order to get good quality public services, not to accumulate state-owned buildings. This simple truth has led to the development of the Private Finance Initiative. The PFI helps to square the circle of sound public finances and growing demand for better and more modern public services by tapping the expertise and the resources of the private sector.

A year ago we had agreed £1.5 billion worth of deals — now we have agreed £7 billion, and we are on course to double that by March 1999. Time and again the taxpayer is getting better value for money, through new road schemes, new prison services, and Information Technology projects. And reforms to local government rules are bringing the PFI into new areas -notably schools.

London is currently experiencing a transport investment boom unde the PFL the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, Thameslink 2000, the Docklands Light Railway extension, and the A40 and A13 improvements. This is in addition to conventional Heathrow Express and the new Al2-Mil Hackney Link. Investment in London Transport is now running at 50 per cent in real terms above the average for the 1980s. London will soon become one of the biggest construction sites in the country. As a man from Nottingham. I can only say that I hope London will be even nicer when its

Adding traditional capital spend-ing to PFI investment, publicly sponsored capital spending in the United Kingdom in the next three years will be substantially higher in real terms than it was in the

SOCIAL SECURITY

ne third of all public spending goes on Social Security. Our social security system is there to provide an income when people cannot earn because of sickness, disability, unemploy-ment, caring for relatives or old age. People on the left and right of politics continue to search for a radically different and better way of meeting these needs in our wealthy nation. I have studied many of their proposals and so far. I am afraid. nobody has yet come up with anything remotely sensible or prac-

Until they come up with a radical alternative, if they ever do, our welfare safety net must remain affordable. It must not be allowed to damage the incentives of individuals or businesses in the private sector, because it is the wealthcreating enterprise economy that sustains our social security system.

In the post-War period social security has grown in real terms by around 5 per cent a year. In recent Budgets we have taken action to bring that growth under control. We now expect future growth of 1.5 per cent a year. Well below the growth of the economy.

Year after year, this Government has also vigorously attacked fraud and has reformed benefits to target them on those in genuine need. The measures I now propose in this Budget intensify these efforts yet

We plan a further move to align the benefits paid to lone parents and couples with children. From April 1998, new awards of Family Premium and Child Benefit will be the same for lone parents and couples. And we are introducing a number of measures on housing benefit and Council tax benefit to ensure that those on benefits do not have a more comfortable lifestyle than those who are supporting themselves on modest incomes. That would be unfair and unwise Fuil details will be made available later today by my Right Hon Priend the Secretary of State for Social Security

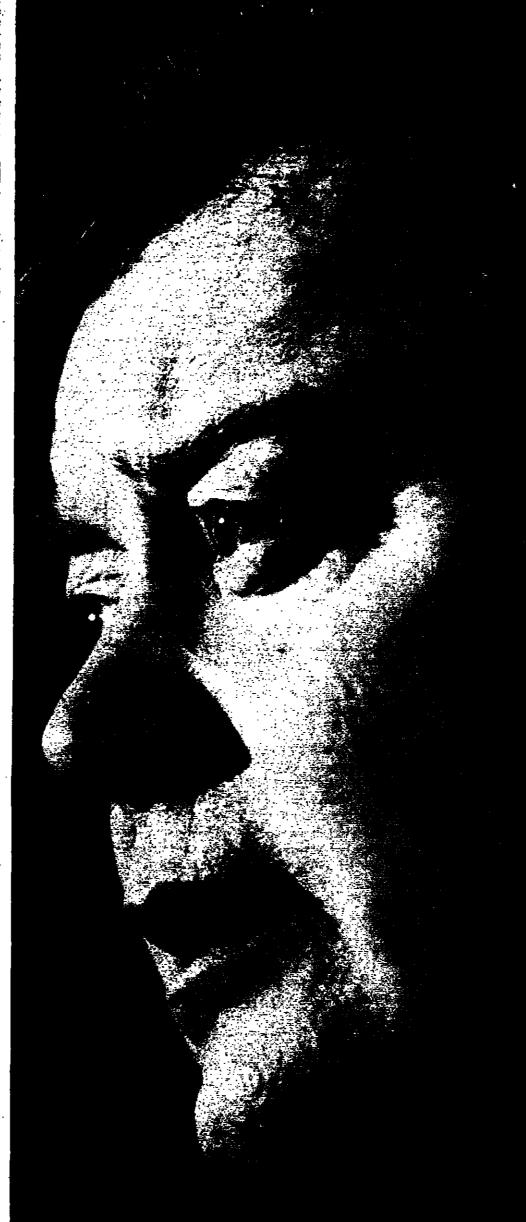
In my Budget two years ago, I announced a whole package of measures to help the unemployed get back to work — from improvements to the Family Credit System to National Insurance holidays for

employers taking on long-term unemployed people. In this Budget I am providing another £100 million of new money, mainly targeted on people who have been unemployed for 2 years or more. They will be required to attend a compulsory programme of interviews with the employment service to give them a helping hand to compete in our ever improving

market for jobs. We are expanding Project Work pilots to a further 28 areas. This will create up to 100,000 new opportuni-ties, on a programme with a good track record for getting long-term unemployed people back to work. I can also announce pilots for a new scheme called "Contract for Work". Private contractors will help people to find work. These firms will be paid by results. As with Project Work, if the scheme works better than the existing approach, we'll

Dependency impoverishes us all. The welfare system should provide a safety net. It must provide the support that a caring society wants to give to our less fortunate fellow citizens. But the welfare system must never become a way of life. We do not want our social security system to be undermined by resentment. We have to take these careful measures because we are serious about protecting those in genuine need and we want to go on delivering that protection for the

We want to combine a strong affordable welfare system with a successful low tax economy. That



means that when we spend money on social security, it must only go to those who need it. It also means that when we levy taxes we must make sure that they are paid by those who ought to pay them.

As part of our continuing fight against tax and benefit fraud and tax loopholes, I am introducing a package of measures called "spend to save". This involves spending modest amounts of money, carefully targeted, to, save much more money and to raise revenue.

There will be more money next year to clamp down on benefit fraud. There will be more visits and checks on benefit claimants in high-risk groups and the informa-tion we already have on benefit claimants will be used more effectively to catch cheats.

Inland Revenue experts will be deployed to investigate even more rigorously how some big, sophisticated companies seem to pay so little tax. They will make sure that companies are paying what they owe, and what we intended they should owe. In short, we intend to do more about companies being 'economical with their tax".

There will be more resources in the Revenue and Customs to stem the growth of the shadow economy. Tax cheats put law-abiding small entrepreneurs out of business. We all lose from that. There will be more Customs and Excise officers including yet more to stop the smuggling of alcohol and tobacco. The "spend to save" package will cost £800 million over the next

expenditure savings of well over eight times that amount — £6.7 billion. "Spend to save" protects the ordinary taxpayer and the people in genuine need of benefits. It is not about more bureaucracy or more

red tape. We remain a government

three years to secure revenue and

committed to deregulation, and committed to a more efficient Civil We have cut overall running costs of central government departments by 8 per cent in real terms since the start of this Parliament and we are going to reduce them by a further 7 per cent by the end of the decade. Civil Service numbers are

TAXATION

already below 500,000 and we

expect this fall to continue.

The first duty of Government is to make sure that people can live their lives as they want and that businesses can flourish. People must have the opportunity of a good-quality job to go to, a good standard of living, good schools and hospitals and safe streets to live in: Only when those essentials are secure, and only when the Government has made to tackle VAT and other tax abuse. sure that it is not borrowing more

than it should, can a government think about tax cuts.

Last year I cut taxes paid by the ordinary family and this year I am able to cut a little more. I think that the message I have repeated over recent months has now been understood. If there are to be tax cuts, they must be for keeps. They must be backed not only by sound spending decisions but by a sound fiscal judgment.

Consumer spending is strong

and inflation remains in check. But a fiscal stimulus to the economy at this stage could be just as damaging as letting go of monetary policy. So, in setting my Budget, I have struck a careful balance

I want to cut taxes, but first I have to continue my drive to secure the tax yield. I have to make sure that tax due is turned into tax paid. The balance of the tax burden must be distributed sensibly and fairly and it must not distort decisions or competition.

I am introducing a number of measures that will help us to achieve this. I am plugging some loopholes, ending some tax reliefs that have done their job and adjusting some indirect tax rates.

Even though VAT revenues have revived in recent months, they are still coming in significantly below what was expected last year. This Budget includes a crackdown on some of the clever wheezes that have sprung up to get around

paying VAT. These measures will raise £750 million in revenue next year, but they also protect a further £1,500 million a year of existing revenue from further attack.

Customs will restrict access to special VAT schemes for retailers. We will also tighten up the rules of VAT relief schemes for bad debts, and the option to tax commercial property, to prevent widespread abuse of these reliefs. I also propose to take steps against retailers who reduce their VAT bills when selling insurance with their products.

We announced a three-year limit on repayments of VAT claims. This was a sensible precautionary mea-sure. Recent high profile court cases have revealed the potential exposure of the Exchequer to claims for tax going back to when the tax was first introduced. No responsible Government could leave the Exchequer, and, ultimately, all taxpavers, exposed in that way. Government needs to strike a balance between what is fair to the individual taxpayer, and what is fair to the whole body of taxpayers.

6 I think the message I have repeated has been understood. If there are to be tax cuts they must be for keeps **9**

The three-year cap strikes that

But one feature that attracted particular criticism from accountants and their clients was that Customs still retained the right to claim underpaid tax going back six years. This argument was rather disingenuous because Customs do not claim underpaid tax on unexpected changes to the interpretation of the law when those go against taxpayers. However, Government must not only be fair — it must be seen to be fair. I have. therefore, decided that Customs' right to claim underpaid tax, in cases where no fraud or malpractice is involved, should be restricted to three years as well.

I will be releasing details today of a package of measures to stamp out tax abuse in a number of areas including leasing transactions, the abuse of foreign tax credit rules, company's shares. I am sure these will be accepted as necessary and sensible measures to stem the growing loss of tax revenues. And to protect the ordinary tax payer.

I will not tolerate tax abuse. A number of these measures are being introduced, subject to the Finance Bill becoming law, with

effect from today.

Special tax reliefs can be a powerful tool. They can play an important pump-priming role, encouraging companies and individuals to change their behaviour in a way which benefits the wider economy. But by their very nature, they need to be used very selectively. We nwe it to the ordinary tax payer to keep each and every special tax relief under constant review to determine whether it is still justified, or whether it has now served its useful purpose.

PROFIT-RELATED PAY

¬he tax relief this Government introduced in 1987 to promote profit-related pay schemes has been a success. It has played a key role in reinforcing this Government's strong beliefs that employees rewards should depend on the success of the business for which they work.

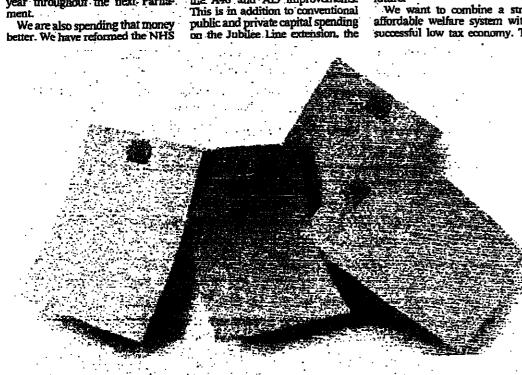
I have always believed, and argued publicly for years, that in a modern enterprise economy people's pay should be closely linked to the performance of the business for which they work. The best way for businesses to motivate their staff is to let them share in the rewards of success. I am delighted that tax reliefs have helped to get this idea

accepted so widely. The tax relief on profit-related pay was always intended to be a pump-priming measure. As Nigel Lawson said in 1986: "There is considerable inertia to overcome, so it might make sense to offer some temporary measure of tax relief." Profit-related pay is now firmly established as part of British businesses' pay policy. Over 3.7 million people are in schemes. Ten years on, the tax incentive has successfully served its pump-prim-

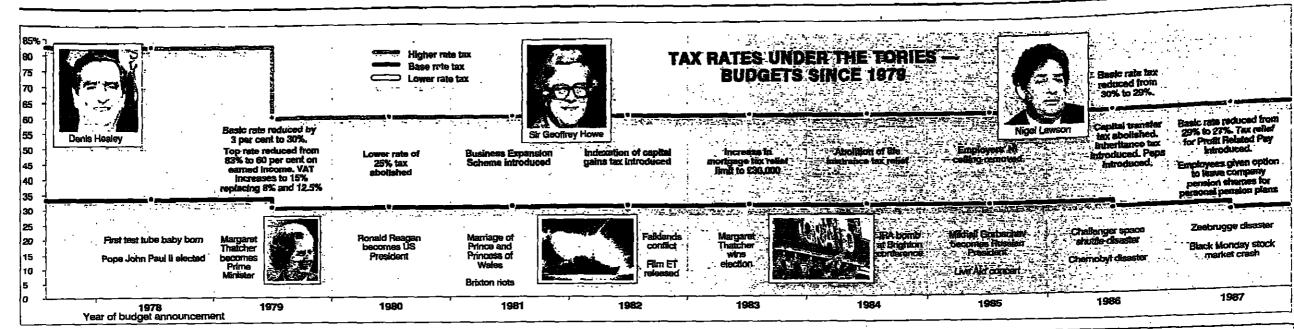
ng purpose. I can no longer justify the increasing cost of the tax relief to the 22 million taxpayers who are not in profit-related pay schemes. We cannot permanently divide the workforce into groups who pay different levels of tax on the same earnings depending on whether the firm they work for is in a scheme or not. The goal of widespread use of PRP has been achieved and I would rather make faster progress on lower taxes for everybody.

Good managers do not need a tax relief any more to know that pay should be linked to their firm's performance. Pay linked to profits produces it own rewards on the bottom line in a thriving economy. It is therefore time for the

Continued on page 18



JDGET 96



Continued from page 17 Government to start to withdraw this special tax relief. I intend to do this gradually, to ensure that businesses which need to adjust their pay packages and their sharing of the rewards of success have ample

time to do so. The upper limit of pay attracting the relief will remain unchanged at £4,000 until 1998 and no one will be affected before then. It will then be progressively reduced until the year 2000, when the relief will be withdrawn alto-

Capital allowances for longlife assets investment is vital to our recovery, and business investment is now growing strongly. The tax system recognises investment through capital allowances. These allow the cost of investment to be written off against tax bills, frequently faster than it is written off in commercial

For plant and machinery with a long lifespan, the rate at which costs can be written off for tax is far more generous than for other types of investment and bears no relation to the useful economic life of the asset. This is an unjustifiable distortion in the tax system.

I propose changing the capital allowance for plant and machinery with a life of more than 25 years to 6 per cent on a reducing balance basis. This will spread the tax relief more evenly over the average life of these assets. Groups spending less than £100,000 a year on such assets will be exempt. This will mean that the vast will not be affected. Ships and railways will also be exempt.

I also propose to withdraw the 100 per cent corporation

tax deduction for the intangible costs of drilling most production oil wells.

OTHER TAXES

This Government recognises that low marginal tax rates on income are a spur to hard work and enterprise. Taxes on spending do less damage to effort and enterprise than taxes on income. But the balance of the taxes on spending must be right. And I am making some changes to taxes which help to move towards a better balance for the tax system as a whole.

I propose to increase insur-

ance premium tax, which applies to most general insurance, to 4 per cent. Three-quarters of all insurance. including life and other longterm insurance, will remain exempt. Insurance remains undertaxed for consumers compared with other services in this country. The introduction of the tax did not harm the healthy insurance industry that we have. Most companies absorbed the tax and some premiums actually fell for a time. Even after this further modest change, the overall rate of insurance premium tax in the UK remains very low lower than in almost any other

European Union country. Air travel has also been undertaxed because it has proved difficult to get international agreement to tax the fuel. The rates of air passenger duty are to be increased. The £5 rate on flights to most European countries will be increased to £10, and the £10 rate on flights to the rest of the world will be increased to £20. These increases will not come into effect until November 1. 1997, to give tour operators

time to reflect these new rates in the prices they publish in their brochures

> Business travel is soaring and the holiday business is booming at the moment in prosperous Britain and this modest change will not stop it booming in future prosperous years. About 40 per cent of the revenue raised by this tax is borne by overseas visitors.

> I am making the same changes to the main vehicle excise duties this year as I did last year. The cost of a car tax disc will go up by £5, about the rate of inflation. The cost of a lorry tax disc will be frozen for the seventh year in a row.

I firmly believe that motorists should bear the full costs of driving; not only wear and tear and congestion on the

> **6** Motorists should bear the full cost of driving, including environmental costs 🤊

roads, but also the wider environmental costs. Even those of us who frequently have to drive can take steps to cut fuel consumption and we all ought to consider carefully the use of our cars.

I intend to stick to my 1993 Budget commitment to raise road fuel duties by an average of at least 5 per cent each year in real terms. In line with this I am raising the tax on all petrol and diesel by 3p per litre from 6pm tonight. These tax rises will encourage fuel efficiency and help to control harmful pollution.

AIR POLLUTION

ollution from vehicles is already coming down, helped by tax measures in previous Budgets. Those to encourage unleaded petrol were a huge success. It now accounts for two-thirds of the petrol market. I want to go further in this Budget to attack pollution in cities and to improve air quality by effective steps to reduce particulate emissions - the smoke produced by diesel engines.

In recent years, new evidence has come to light strengthening the health arguments for reducing particu-lates. This pollution is being reduced, but we all want to see t being reduced further and

Ultra-low sulphur diesel is cleaner than ordinary diesel, but is slightly more expensive to produce. I want to create the conditions where ultra-low sulphur diesel can cost the same at the pump as ordinary diesel. I have just said that I am increasing the tax on diesel by the same amount as petrol. plan to reduce the duty on ultra-low sulphur diesel by lo per litre relative to ordinary diesel, when I get the neces-

I also want to encourage high-mileage vehicles in our towns and cities to switch to cleaner gas power. Last year's Budget changes broadly equalised the pump prices of gas and petrol. From 6pm tonight I am reducing the duty on road fuel gases by a further

sary international agreement.

25 per cent. also intend to reduce

vehicle excise duty by up to £500 for lorries that meet very stringent emissions standards from early 1998. This will give an incentive for lorry owners to fit particulate traps or to convert to gas power. We will be consulting on the practical details of these changes.

I believe that this air quality package will significantly speed up the reduction of urban emissions of particulates, helping us to meet our air quality targets for 2005 and beyond. We intend to ensure that economic growth in this country is consistent with a healthy environment and sustainable development.

TOBACCO

n my 1993 Budget I gave a commitment to raise duty on tobacco by more than inflation each year. I believe this is a fair and effective way to hammer home the messag that smoking can seriously damage your health. So far as I am concerned, this is necessary masochism in the wider public interest.

From 6pm this evening the tax on a packet of 20 cigarettes will increase by about 15p, on a packet of small cigars by about 7p and on a packet of pipe

tobacco by about 8p.
I am, however, limiting the increase in the duty on handrolling tobacco to the rate of inflation. Hand-rolling tobacco is proving to be by far the easiest tobacco product to smuggle, although it represents a very small part of the tobacco market.

am aware of the serious problem that cross-border shopping and smuggling of alcohol causes our drinks industry. I have already announced that Customs is stepping up its efforts to catch

smugglers. Last year I was able to freeze the duty rate on beer and wine. This year it will remain frozen. The proportion of tax on the price of a pint in the pub is now at its lowest level for 30 years. For some of us, that helps to keep our small cigars affordable.

Last year's cut in the duty on spirits was the first for 100 years. I was tempted to maintain a striking rate of once every 100 years. But I am sure the industry will be glad to know that they will not have to wait so long this time.

From opm tonight the tax on whisky, gin and other spirits will fall by another 4 per cent, worth 26p a bottle. The reduction in the rate on spirits boosts an important industry in the UK. It will also reinforce last year's signal to overseas authorities not to discriminate against our products. Only smugglers will regret that we are slowly moving our duty on spirits nearer to the continental level.

From January 1, the tax on alcoholic soft drinks will be increased by more than 40 per cent, by between 7p and 8p a bottle. This will help to meet public concern about the attraction of these "alcopops" for underage drinkers and it will also attack a distortion of competition by bringing the tax broadly into line with beer.

BUSINESS

Tothing matters more for business than a stable economic environment - low interest rates and low inflation. Businesses throughout Britain are benefiting from the healthy sustainable growth in the economy that I have described

As I promised in my last Budget, from April 1997 there will be a cut in the main rate of employers' National Insurance Contributions, to 10 per cent, paid for by the proceeds from the landfill tax. A tax on waste to cut a tax on jobs. This will benefit employers in Britain and make it cheaper to create new jobs in our growing

Our overheads on jobs are fready less than half those in Germany, France, or Italy. 1 am determined to keep that advantage over our continental competitors where the creation of new jobs is overregulated and over-priced. This is another reason why [

SPEECHES THAT END THE HISTORY BOOKS

The good, the bad and the downright tedious





Long and short of it: Gladstone's record was four hours longer than Disraeli's

IN 1987, the Budget speech of Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, lasted a meagre 59 minutes - the shortest since 1867 when Benjamin Disraeli crammed the speech into 45

☐ The longest Budget speech was made by William Gladstone in 1853 and lasted four

hours and 45 minutes. Prime Minister, James Callaghan.

☐ There were two Budget days in 1979 one during the Labour administration and one after the Conservative general election

victory.

The 1965 Budget was mould-breaking not only on the economic front. Along with big tax increases that left the City shellshocked. Callaghan, then the Chancellor, deserted the traditional red Budget box for a new brown dispatch box, which caused further uproar from the Opposition.

☐ The Daily Herald declared the 1959 Budget "a man's Budget" because of income tax cuts. 2p off beer and lower purchase tax ☐ The 1955 Budget was announced during a

month-long newspaper strike.

☐ The first postwar Budget was on Tuesday, April 24, 1945. A few hours after the Chancellor's speech, the lantern above Big.

Ben was switched on for the first time in five years, seven months and 23 days.

☐ The first Budget speech to be televised was in 1991.

☐ The 1973 Budget painted a grey portrait of Britain with the addition of a 10 per cent value added tax (VAT) which the Chancellor, Anthony Barber, promised 'would be a □ The 1980 Budget day fell on a Wednesday, ignoring the typical Tuesday tradition. cream, soft drinks, crisps and salted peanuts □ Budget day in 1976 coincided with the first exposure to Question Time of the new Chancellor stated that they were no longer considered luxuries.

☐ Notable "boring Budgets" of postwar years: Callaghan's third Budget, in 1967, was described as "a Budget without a theme, or even very much by way of content". When he announced that he had ended his speech, there was a chorus of disbelief, with one Labour MP exclaiming "No!" A former Conservative Chancellor referred to it as "the Budget that never was". MPs from both sides actually questioned whether the Budget dehate could be made to last the full

three days allowed. ☐ Reginald Maudling's 1964 Budget was dubbed by the Daily Mirror as "the most unimaginative Budget in years" even though it was an election year. Harold Wilson said it was as if the previous April's giveaway Budget had been designed to be followed by an autumn election — and the Government had forgotten to hold one.

am confident that our unemployment will keep falling. In this Budget, I propose to keep the three intermediate thresholds for employers' National Insurance contributions where they are now. I propose to increase, by £10 and £1 respectively, the upper and lower earnings thresholds for

employers' and employees' NI contributions. I also want to address a particular concern of our small businesses — the burden of non-domestic rates. The uniform business rate is a fixed cost which can rise each year beyond the control of the

manager of a small business.

6 This project is as ambitious as translating the whole of War and Peace into lucid Swahili 🤊

Since the last revaluation of business rates, I have repeatedly slowed down the increase for those businesses whose rates have had to go up. No business property has seen its rates go up by more than 7.5 per cent above inflation in any one year. But I want to do more than this.

I have decided to freeze next year's rates bill for all the small businesses whose rates would have gone up. Small properties whose rates are falling will have those reductions accelerated. This will benefit more than one million small business properties by up to £130 a year.

A freeze is an important step that I can make this year. We have already reduced business rates for rural village shops.

But I realise that the present system of business rates bears particularly hard on the smaller business for whom they represent a much bigger proportion of total costs. We must therefore move on as soon as possible to more changes in the system to recognise this and redistribute the burden more sensibly between smaller and larger businesses.

INHERITANCE TAX

l his Government is committed to reducing and then abolishing capital gains tax and inheritance tax. But we have always said that we will cut these taxes only when we can afford to do so. This is a responsible Budget which is protecting future growth and prosperity by putting the public finances

into a healthier state We will not be able to make progress on both these taxes this year. But I am pleased to announce that we can take a further significant step towards abolishing inheritance

Inheritance tax is a penalty on thrift, independence and enterprise. It is a growing anachronism. Lloyd George's maxim that "the most convenient time to tax the rich is when they are dead" no longer holds. It is largely paid by people of modest means who cannot or simply do not make careful plans to avoid it.

Last year I made significant progress towards our commitprogress towards our commu-ment. In this Budget i will build on that by raising the value of the inheritance tax threshold to £215,000. That means that in two years the Government will have raised the threshold for inheritance tax by 40 per cent.

TAX REWRITE

n last year's Budget I announced a project to rewrite Inland Revenue tax legislation in plain Eng-lish. This project is as ambitious as translating the whole of War and Peace into lucid Swahili. We have consulted extensively on how the project should be carried out and the Inland Revenue will publish the plans shortly after the

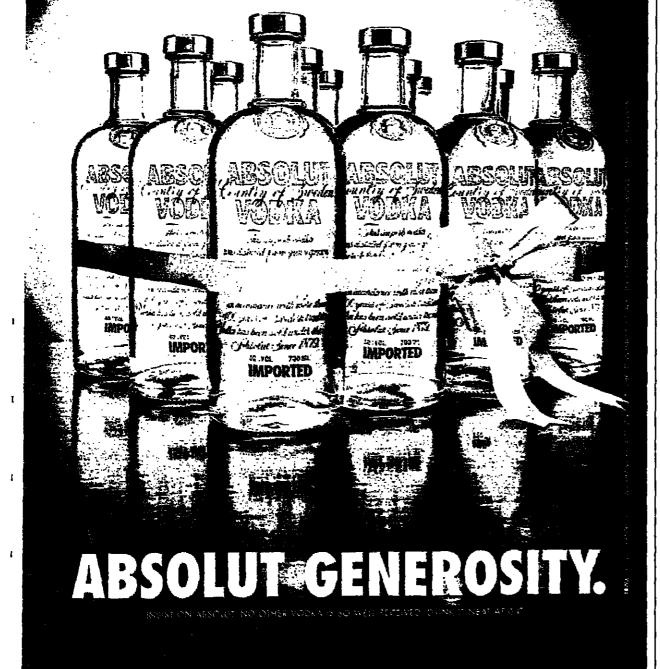
The aim is to prepare a series of rewrite Bills, the first of them to be ready for enactment in the 1997-98 session. My noble and learned friend Lord Howe of Aberavon has produced a thorough and helpful report on how Parlisment may handle these bills. We endorse his broad proposals, and invite the Procedure Committee to consider how the House is going to handle the bills in a sensible fashion. I can announce that Lord Howe has agreed to chair the steering committee which will oversee the rewrite project.

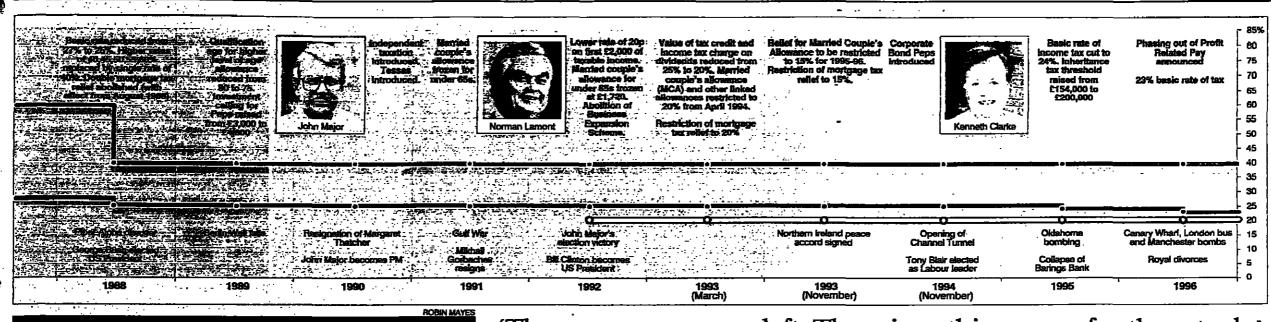
INCOME TAX

This Government has led Britain towards out dear goal of a low tax economy where private enterprise has the incentive to generate jobs, investment and wealth to make people and their families more prosperous. We are moving towards a low tax economy where individual living standards continue to rise and the Government can afford the excellent public

services that people want. Low direct taxes are the most effective way to encourage enterprise and hard work Under this Government those who do an honest day's work and those who take entrepre neurial risk will keep more of

what they earn and save. This year people have taken of the overside my speeches on the overside my speeches on the overriding priority of securing future prosperity and jobs and financing key public services. Sensible people already expect my cuts in direct Continued on facing page





'There are no excuses left. There is nothing more for them to do'

We have heard all their tax promises before, says Blair

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR accused Kenneth Clarke of delivering a last-gasp Budget to rescue Tory fortunes with promises of further tax cuts that would fail to decieve the voters.

The Tories had returned to 'their old tricks" of offering pre-election tax cuts that voters knew would be reversed after the general election. The Labour leader compared the Budget with tax-cutting measures unveiled months before the last general election but which were followed by a string of tax increases.

Mr Clarke's "boasts" had no more credibility than the "untruths" delivered by Norman Lamont, when he was Chancellor, before the 1992 election. "We've heard all their promises before. We heard them at the last election and did not believe them. The difference this time is that the country doesn't believe them

Voters would remember been followed by tax rises and that forecasts on the national debt had proved unfounded.

This is actually the last gasp Budget of a Government whose time is up, which can't be trusted with the future and can't make amends for the past. They can't be trusted on tax, on the economy; on the health service, on education they can't be trusted with our future. The truth is, after 17 or 18 years of one Government, there are no excuses left. There is nothing left for them to do

except go." He taunted John Major and Mr Lamont for their pledges that the scope of VAT would not be increased. "If they told those untruths then, why should we believe them now, whatever they may say?"

Even after the cut in taxes

announced by Mr Clarke, the average family would be £2,120 worse off at the next election than they were in 1992. "The Chancellor announced a crackdown on tax cheats. I think he should start with the Conservative Party

after 22 Tory tax rises."

He identified a £4 billion rise in council tax over the next three years, increases in airport and insurance taxes and the phasing out of profitrelated pay as examples of the Tories' "old con-trick" — "Give with one hand, take with

Mr Blair also taunted the Chancellor over his plans to close tax loopholes, insisting Mr Clarke had previously ridiculed similar calls by Labour as "Alice in Wonderland" fantasy: "Now he is resting his spending plans on them."

He also mocked the Government's efforts to reduce the national debt. "This year it was supposed to be £6 billion. It's now £26 billion. This Prime Minister, having won an election on the pledge that he would cut taxes and cut

Mr Blair said that the Government always promised

more for health and education. "But look at the facts of what is happening in the NHS. Waiting lists rising again, 36 trusts in deficit,

50,000 fewer nurses. Government claims that health spending was increasing by 3 per cent next year masked the fact that in the following two years it would be under the inflation rate: The actual spending increase is in fact a fall by 0.7 per cent a

On education, he said the Government had promised an extra £800 million last year but, because local authorities were already spending £800 million above their limit, the inflation rate.

The Government's planned expansion of nursery education had been cut back with a £56 million reduction in the allocation for the nursery education voucher scheme. Their problem is not just the trade gap, or the investment gap. It's a credibility gap.

Mr Blair ridiculed Mr Maday after winning the last general election, that the Tories would become the most

long time. "I will tell you why he was going to be unpopular: because he knew the truth but it wasn't told at the election."

Voters would judge the Government on its 17 years in office, during which Britain had fallen to ninth in the international league for prosperity, 18th for living stan-

6 Last gasp of a Government which can't be trusted with the future and can't make amends for the past **9**

dards and 15th for interest rates and inflation. Failure to invest in manufacturing, education and training had led to fundamental weaknesses in the economy, including a reon in the number of jol by Mr Clarke's speech. Without the measures for

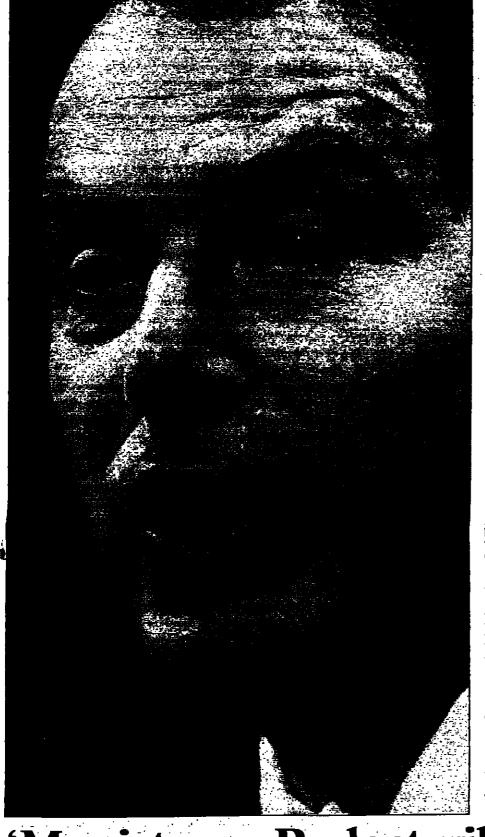
tackle that structural unemployment, we will never have that recovery or prosperity that lasts."

The Government did not mind how unequal or fractured society became. They thought if they satisfied the short term, the long term would look after itself. But it doesn't work like that."

However, if the Government did not invest now, it would not be able to reap the rewards in the future. "A nation run for the few will never be fit for the many." Paddy Ashdown, the Lib-

eral Democrat Leader, said the Budget would be remembered as the leaked Budget, but it should be known as the smoke-and-mirrors Budget. This is a Budget of slick tricks and small measures. It pretends to be responsible, bût it isn't. It pretends to give big tax cuts, but it doesn't. It pretends to invest in public services, but it won't. But, though the measures in this Budget may be small, the damage it will do

He pledged that his party would vote against the income



'My virtuous Budget will bring hard workers rich rewards'

Continued from facing page taxation to be modest. They know their wellbeing depends on lasting growth and more jobs and that living standards rise from a combination of steadily rising incomes and steadily lowering taxes. Tax cuts matter a lot to low paid people and to men and women in ordinary jobs. I announced my income tax cuts last year as a return to our tax-cutting agenda, and for the second year in succession I am delivering an instalment of that agenda. I want to ensure that tax does not start to be paid at too low a level of income and I want to improve work incentives. I propose first of all to raise the threshold below which no income tax is paid at

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I am making an increase in the basic personal allowance of £280. That is 312 times more than necessary to cover the rate of inflation. It will also ensure that every person who pays any income tax will get direct benefit from this

Budget. I am also increasing the married couple's and related allowances by £40, maintaining the extra tax allowance to all married couples. It will now be worth nearly £275 each year for married couples. The tax system does recognise marriage, contrary to popular

We also give a special tax allowance to blind people. This year I am increasing that by the rate of inflation. And I will put indexation of this allowance on to the same star- ... the bottom end of the scale.

income tax allowances. I also propose to raise the threshold above which the 40p higher rate tax begins by £600.

One of this Government's most important pledges is that we will move to a basic rate of income tax of 20p as soon as we can. We are proving that we can move towards the delivery of the promise and still deliver healthy public finances. Every step we take makes it more and more credible. Every step that we take makes it more affordable to reach the ultimate goal tantalisingly near to. As a further step towards that, I propose to widen the lower-rate band of 20p tax by E200, twice as much as required by indexation.

This will mean that the slice of income on which a 20p tax rate is paid will have more than doubled during the life. time of this Parliament. More than one in four of all taxpayers will only pay tax at 20p in

the pound. Mr Deputy Speaker, this is the stage of my Budget speech where everyone is asking themselves, are the guesses of the newspapers right? Am I indeed going to cut a penny off the basic rate of income tax? What the newspapers did not know was that my control of public spending and borrow-ing would have allowed me to take 2p off if I had chosen to. But I preferred instead to raise personal allowances and widen the 20p band for those at

And, yes, Mr Deputy Speakgrowth and rising living staner. I am indeed also able to dards, and we are going to reduce the basic rate of income enjoy more of the same. tax by lp to 23p in the pound. The small companies rate of corporation tax will be reduced to 23 per cent in line

with this, helping 400,000 companies. The main rate of

corporation tax of 33p is

already lower than in any

other major industrialised

Seventeen years of steady

progress, so far, means that

the basic rate of income tax is

now a full 10p lower than the rate we inherited in 1979. It is

at its lowest rate for 60 years.

Another penny off the basic rate is a significant further

step towards this Govern-

ment's target of a 20p basic

rate of tax. For more than seven million people our promise of a 20p basic rate is

already a reality. I am bring-

ing other income taxpayers

ever closer to that reality: 20p

is a realistic and attainable

goal for the next Parliament.

LIVING STANDARDS

get, a family on average

earnings will be another £370

better off next year over and

above inflation. The same

family will have more than

£1,100 more to spend each year

after tax and inflation than

they did before the last elec-

tion. In 1992, the background

was one of a worldwide slow-

down and a recovery in the

UK that had barely started.

ith increases in real

earnings and the tax

changes in this Bud-

CONCLUSION

n November 1993 I promised that I would put L Britain firmly on course for a sustained period of rising prosperity and falling unemployment, based on low infla tion and healthy public finances. I have delivered on those promises.

The Government believes in allowing people to keep as much as possible of their own income so that they can make

This Budget cuts public spending next year by £2 billion and it generates an extra £500,000 in revenue through "spend to save". It contains a balanced tax package; it includes tax cuts of £2 billion while it secures the tax base by El billion. The effect of the Budget is to tighten fiscal policy and so protect lasting recovery.

1 realise virtue doesn't always brings its own rewards. But this virtuous Budget will bring rich rewards - the rewards of economic success to hardworking people of this country. Never forget, good economics is good politics.

This is not a Budget just for the next few months; it is a Budget for many prosperous years to come. It is a Budget that this Government will build upon again in 12 months. I commend this Budget to the House.



BUDGET 96 Fabulous, unbelieveable: how it would hit home in TV land | Zair



Edina and Patsy are thrilled that tax on wine is unchanged and that vodka is going to be 26p a bottle cheaper — "but ISp on cigarettes, dahling! Honestly, dahling Okay, okay, okay. Saffie, I know it's an incentive to give up. but to me it's just an incentive to keep sucking right down to the filter. As for the extra air passenger duty, dahling, Patsy and I will just have to drink three times as much free Bolly on the plane to Milan to make up the cost." Saffie tells her that the average family will be £370 better off, "but we're not an average family, are we dahling? And you can wipe that smile off your face, Saffie. Just because the inheritance tax threshhold has gone up to £215,000 doesn't mean you'll be getting any more of my dosh." No, agrees Patsy, "not if we stick it up our noses first, Edie. Have we toasted Ken



Gary and Tony are already celebrating the Chancellor's decision to leave lager alone — "Unlike us, eh Gary?" — but regret having got in a few six-packs in anticipation of a tax rise: 340 six-packs, to be exact, which is going to make moving around Gary's flat tricky for a few days. Gary has sent the girls to buy Rizla papers and hand-rolling tobacco, which has escaped the 15p-a-pack levy slapped on cigarettes, but Tony doesn't think it's romantic to roll his own after sex. Gary reminds Tony not to worry, because Tony rarely has sex anyway. Gary can stomach the extra £5 for car tax and 3p a litre on petrol as he will be paying less tax. But Tony fears that the extra £450 million for law and order boosts their chances of being arrested for disorderly behaviour. Tony says he can't quite visualise £450 million. "Think of it," says Gary, "as 568 million cans of Heineken.



■ Detective Sergeant Lewis: "Good Budget, don't you think, Sir, what with 2,000 more constables on the street next year. By the way, do you mind if I call you Endeavour?" Inspector Morse: "I mind greatly, Lewis; you're not supposed to know that. And since when has beefing up the uniforms helped to solve a murder? They all get soaked up in community policing, traffic, that sort of thing." Lewis: "But surely, Sir, putting more customs officers on to VAT fraud, alcohol and tobacco smuggling will make an inspector's lot a happier one." Morse: "You surprise me sometimes, Lewis. Idiots who stash a Transit van full of cheap French plonk and bring it back to Dover are no concern of mine. I've got far bigger worries on my mind. Like my Jaguar. Car tax up to £145, 3p a litre on petrol? Perhaps I should get the old girl



■ Tricia Armstrong, the lowest-paid machinist at Baldwin's Sportswear in Weatherfield, is hoping that the Chancel-lor's move to raise the starting tax threshold will swell her spending money. With her husband in prison and a second child on the way, Tricia is already on the breadline. Since she doesn't smoke, the extra 15p on cigarettes makes her feel richer without actually affecting her purse. And since she gave up drinking when she became pregnant, she won't even benefit from the 25p being knocked off gin and whisky. For the sake of her 13year-old son. Jamie, she is grateful that another £830 million is going on schools, and it will make her life with the new baby much easier if the £1.6 billion on health spending eases the queues at the local hospital. The doubling of air passenger duties is academic for Tricia. She struggles to afford the bus fare.



Rah C. Nesbitt: "I tell you this, boy. Kenny Clarke disnae live in Govan. See income tax? Whit's that? See business investment expected tae grow by 10 per cent? No' in this wee corner o' Glasgow, pal. Income and investment is no' words that is often tossed around in conversations over the Tennents' lager at soirees up oor stair. Whit's mair, I take it as an affront tae human dignity when yer man says he's gauna spend £100 million helpin' the long-term unemployed back tae work. Does he no understand oor culture? An' no content wi' that, he's pittin' 2,000 mair rozzers on the street, and plannin' tae tighten up on tax and benefit fraud.
This English Tory toerag is threatenin'
tae destroy a way o' life. See you, Clarkey, dinnae think you can buy us aff by knockin' 26p aff a bottle o' Bells. Ye never knocked a penny aff a pint o' lager, ya swine. See me: ah'm votin' for Sean Connery."



■ Victor Meldrew: "God dammit, Margaret, I don't believe it. That ruddy man says that if I'm to get this new benefit for people who have been unemployed for more than two years. I will have to attend compulsory interviews at the Jobcentre. It's outrageous. And all his talk about spending an extra £450 million on law and order - I'll tell you. Margaret, I bet not one penny gets spent down this street. What do you mean, "We could always go away on a little holiday? Good God, woman, are you so stupid? He's just doubled the airport tax. And you know what happened when we went on holiday once before: the ruddy house burnt down. Now I have to pay an extra 1.5 per cent insurance premium tax in case it happens again. It's all very well him taking a penny off income tax: doesn't the blasted man realise I haven't got an income? I just don't believe it.'

Plain English taxes the brain

By Jon Ashworth

ONLY Kenneth Clarke could say it with a straight face. A year ago, he triumphantly unveiled plans to rewrite the tax code in plain English. stamping out gobbledegook, and saving untold millions in professional fees. Yesterday, he admitted the truth: the project was about as easy as translating the whole of War and Peace into lucid Swahili. Last November, the Chancellor dismissed the subject in a couple of sentences, noting long and complicated. There year contracts at £40,000 a

TAX CODE

tious, he mused. There were 6,000 pages of Inland Revenue law to rewrite, compared with only 1,500 pages of War and Peace. As he so incisively noted: "We did not have a Tolstoy to write our taxation laws in the first place."

The hunt for surrogate Tolstoys is well under way. Somerset House has begun advertising for lawyers and accountants with a grasp of English, hoping to entice them year. The idea is to assemble a Monro, a senior tax official, who will report directly to the Inland Revenue board. Advisers have concluded

that the "rewrite project" is feasible, and have laid out a five-year timetable. A steering committee has been formed under the Chancellor's "noble and learned friend*, Lord Howe, whose speech-making delivery was once famously likened to "being savaged by a

dead sheep".

More details will follow shortly. Mr Clarke said the aim was to prepare a series of would be ready for enactment in 1997-98. Lord Howe, he 40-strong team under Neil added, had produced a "thor-

ough and helpful" report on how Parliament might handle these Bills.

The Chancellor said that the project would bring the benefits of "clarity and certainty" to businesses and ordinary taxpayers - a view endorsed by leading accountants. Ian Barlow, head of tax at KPMG. said it was important to produce a couple of quick pieces of the "new look" legislation one for the man in the street, the other for the experts. It was regrettable that no attempt would be made to reform the way that the rules are written politically unrealistic in the

£3m rise won't take crisis out of drama

THEATTS By Dalya Alberge.

ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ARTS organisations predicted more closures last night, saying that a Budget increase was too small to tackle the

The Department of National Heritage received £924 million for its 1997-98 programme. This means that the Heritage Secretary, Vir-ginia Bottomley, will give £3 million "over plan" to the Arts Council of England and to museums and galleries. However, critics said that the increases were so miserly, they represented a cut in real

Nicola Thorold, director of the Independent Theatre Council, said: "The Arts Council's grant for 1997-98 is £25 million less than it was at the last election in real terms. Cuts since 1992-93 have been devastating to smaller arts companies. Over 100 have closed since the election."

Lord Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council of England, said: "Standstill funding does mean that a number of important arts bodies of all kinds remain at risk. We have been warned by some that they might cease trading." Jennifer

The National Gallery will consider "substantial savings" but not entry charges Edwards, director of the National Campaign for the Arts. aid: "This is will be death by a thousand trimmings. For most clients, this will be a fifth year at a standstill grant, which isn't sustainable any pointing allocations.

and real misery for some." Sir Hugh Leggatt, a leading heritage campaigner, said: Three million is minute. This underlines the Government's paucity of understanding the importance of these institutions in education, both for children and adults. It is in truth the highest form of

more. It will mean closure

The British Museum and National Gallery are among

The gallery has improved its services to the public, and it will now examine its plans very carefully in order to find substantial savings, especially in the medium term. It is too early to say what the outcome will be in detail. The gallery is not considering imposing admission charges."

Sir Geoffrey Cass, chair-man of the Royal Shakespeare Company, said: "If the freeze is passed on yet again to the RSC, its very substan-

those facing reductions. A tial cumulated reduction in National Gallery spokeswom areal income will give an already efficient organisation will be facing a 12 per cent cut serious problems maintaining its access and coverage.

ests to vis

rentem

The continuing freeze will certainly give the Arts Council major problems across its whole range of clients.

The Government has allo-cated £45.9 million for the cated £45.9 million for the sports councils, a figure which had been projected a year ago. The new UK Sports Council will receive £11.3 million, the English Sports Council £33.7 million, with £400,000 for children's play going to the National Playing Fields Association.

Clarke fares better than single shadow



Clarke will light up a cigar, reach for his pint, and raise his glass to what will become known as the Drinker's Budget. A longstanding beer drinker and lover of smokefilled jazz bars, the So-year-old Chancellor has done his bit to ensure the beer will be flowing

in pubs across the nation. The freeze on duty on beer and wine will help the Chancellor's pocket even if the 7p increase on a small packet of cigars lessens his love of Cuban Montecristo No 5s. The rise will add about £6 to a box

of No 5s, taking the cost to £121, according to Simon Chase, of Hunters & Frankau. the Havana cigar importer. Worse off are afticionados like Lord "Lew" Grade, who sees the price of a box of mogulsized Montecristo No 2s rise

from £257 to about £270. Mr Clarke's wife, Gillian, a smoker, will pay 15p more for a packet of cigarettes. But the Chancellor, who earns £36,991 a year, including an MP's salary of £43,000, will be £509 a year better off after the Budget, according to Price

√ ordon Brown now tas every incentive to get married. Still single at 45, and taken to task for gie at 40, and maken to make for it by Sue Lawley on Desert Island Dises, the Shadow. Chancellor would be £16 ber-

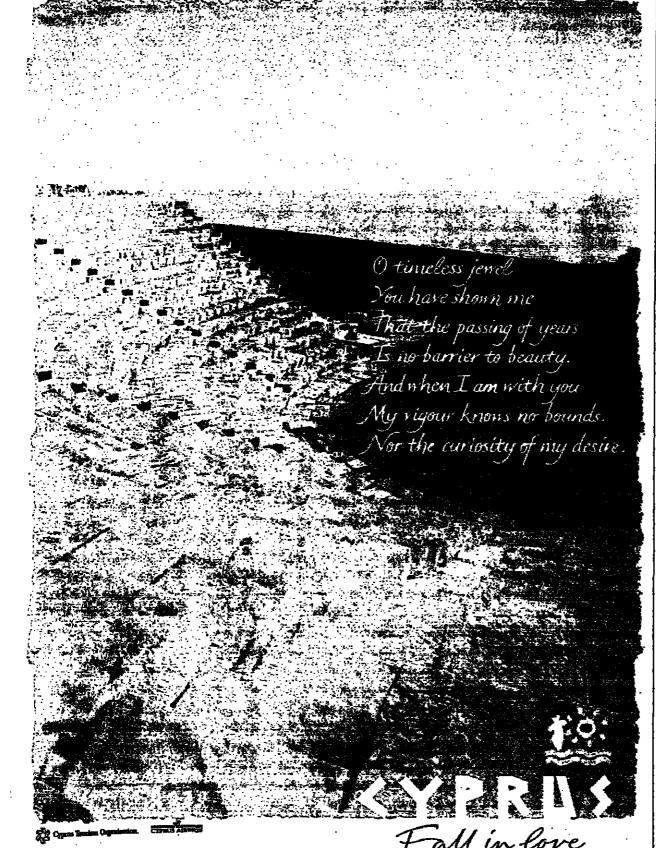
ter off as a married man. Mr Brown earns an MP's basic salary of £34,805 (he refused the recent increase). leaving him £436 better off after the Budget. As a married man, he would be £452 the richer, still some way behind his Tory counterpart. He writes a column for the Daily

Record in Scotland, but do

nates the proceeds towards running his office. One suspects Mr Brown's inaugural Budget — if and when it happens — could be a dull affair, windfall taxes excepted.

The non-smoking son of a Church of Scotland minister.
Mr Brown allows himself the

Church of Scotland minister. Mr Brown allows himself the occasional tipple — although whisky, curiously for a Scotsman, is not a favourite. The 26p a bottle reduction in the price of spirits may pass him by, particularly given his current fitness drive, which has seen him shed more than a seen him shed more than a stone in weight.





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Missing refugees start to emerge from Zaire forests

refugees who had been missing for weeks in the jungles of Zaire poured into camps yesterday in Minova, a small takeside town on the west of # Lake Kivu under the control of the Mai Mai, Zairean rebels.

The refugees, already numbering well over 50,000, said that most of the others who fied the fighting for Zaires interior last month were head-ing for Minova while Hutu enternists and their families were marching to Kisangani and Walekale, deeper in the

Exhausted after trekking from Bukavu. 100 miles to the south, into the forests and back to the lake, the refugees said many had died on the

The Mai Mai, who are in alliance with east Zaire's Rwanda-backed rebels, were trying yesterday to arrange to move the refugees back to Kwanda, either by road or across the lake. In the meantime, the Hutu civilians who. fled retribution for the geno-cide of a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates in Rwanda in 1994 have nothing to eat or

"We have used the last of our supplies and have nothing left to eat. The water here is. also dangerous to drink because it has not been treated. We desperately need the help of the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)," said innocent Habiambere, 40, who fled-Bukavu with 11 members of his family, five of whom have

The UNHCR has been desperate to find the refugees since they fled the camps in the south and has used satellite images of east Zaire and British aerial surveillance aircraft in its search. A short drive from Goma, 35 miles away, is now all that is needed to begin solving the biggest mystery of the refugee crisis.

A steady stream of refugees descended into Minova along

the road south to Bukavu.



Sam Kiley reports from Minova on the thousands of Rwandan Hutus who are desperate to return home

Most had come from the sur- are coming out of the forests rounding mountains and for- and heading for Rwanda. The the fighting and then their own extremist leaders. The leaders had insisted that the people should walk to Walekale as part of a human shield to protect the Hutu militia from attacks by east Zaire's

We have been living off Yesterday Canada contin-berries and forest food. But ued to press for a military now we are just too tired to go on. Please, all we need is lorries to take us home. We want to go home so badly, so badly," Mr Habiambere said. Some refugees were taken back to Goma on an ancient ferry yesterday, but hopes of a

swift return were dashed when the boat broke down. Alphonse Singirankwabo, 38, arrived in Minova last Sunday. He had walked for two weeks with his wife and son, aged six. "There are many others coming," be said. "They

St Denis, Réunion: An Italian woman who survived the Ethiopian Airlines crash off the Comoros Islands is refusing to undergo a life-saving operation because she is a Jehovah's Witness, the authorities here said yesterday (Inigo Gilmore writes). Her identity has not been disclosed. Another two of the six Britons feared dead were named yesterday. They were Alistair Russell and Kanti Shah. Officials at the Foreign Office in London could not say whether Shah was a man

or a woman. The other

Britons listed as missing

are Andy Meakins, 43,

Tony Charters, 46, and

Brian Tetley, 61.

and heading for Rwanda. The rebels have been helping us to get back together and soon there will be hundreds of thousands of people in Minova." He added: "We have not been mistreated by the rebels who only want to attacks the interahamwe (the Hutu militia)."

intervention in eastern Zaire, partly perhaps to search for the missing refugees. Now that the mystery of the missing refugees, estimated to be any-where from 300,000 to 600,000, is solving itself, how-ever, a foreign military mission to the region looks increasingly unlikely.

The Hutu refugees bedded down for the night under blue plastic sheeting they had taken from their former camps, cooked the last of their food, and attended to their young and their sick. Emmanuela, 36, gave birth

to a boy while walking to Minova on Monday. The child lay on a plastic sheet wrapped in an adult's jacket. "I want to get him home soon so that he can begin life not as a refugee but as a Rwandan living in his own country," his mother

Although told by their lead-

ers that they would be slaughtered when they got to Rwanda, few if any of the refugees appeared to be fright-ened by the prospect of official investigations into whether they took part in the genocide. We can share our country with the Tutsis. They have not been bad to us here, so why

should they persecute us in

Rwanda? Just help us to get

home, please," Mr Hab-

iambere said



Etruscan tombs discovered

Rome: New light has been shed on one of Europe's most mysterious lost peoples, the Etruscans, after the discovery of nine perfectly preserved. Etruscan tombs at Cerveteri, on the Lazio coast north of here (Richard Owen writes).

Maria Antonietta Rizzo, archaeological superintendent of Italy's Etruscan ruins, said that the finds included an "incredible hoard" of bronze and gold cups, necklaces, plates, vases, perfume jars and jewellery.

The layout and furnishing of Etruscan tombs, along streets of the dead", mirrors that of long-vanished Etruscan houses. The tombs thus provide an insight into the lifestyle of a people who appear to have enjoyed a high level of civilisation but left no literature to record their culture. They were defeated in the fourth century BC by the Romans, who successfully set about obliterating nearly all traces of the vanquished race.

In its heyday Cerveteri, Roman Caere, was one of 12 major towns in the Etruscan federation. The newly uncovered fifth, sixth and seventhcentury BC tombs were found when police saw three grave robbers digging.

Clinton attacks Burmese 'dictators'

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON yesterday attacked Burma's rul-ing junta for perpetuating dictatorship and fostering the international drug trade as the world's largest producer of heroin and opium.

Speaking in Bangkok at the end of his post-election tour of Asia and Australia, Mr Clinon said: "The role of drugs in Burma's economic and political life and the regime's refusal to honour its own pledge to move to multiparty democracy are really two sides of the same coin." In comments directed at

China and other authoritarian Asian regimes, Mr Clinton argued that higher economic growth followed democratic development. Praising Thailand's democratic tradition, he said: "We need look no further than the economic vitality of Thailand, the Philippines, Taiwan (and) South Korea to see that economic growth and democratic development can go hand in hand." He praised the courage of the Burmese opposition, saying that "only true political dialogue" would lead to a "real fight against crime, corruption and nar-

Yesterday's comments went some way to assuage the fears of human rights supporters that Mr Clinton's Asian tour was emphasising trading interests above democratic principles. Critics still argue that the Administration will stand up for human rights in a small country such as Burma but will not jeopardise a lucrative trading relationship with China.

As the first American president to visit Thailand since Richard Nixon in 1969 at the height of the Vietnam War. Mr Clinton emphasised that he intended to keep a strong military presence in the region to "safeguard our common security". However, in a remark designed to reassure China, he said that the US military presence "is not aimed at anyone or any

NEWS IN BRIEF

Narcotics 'threaten Europe'

Vienna: Traffic in illegal drugs is threatening to destabilise Central and Eastern Europe, but the European Union is not taking the prob-lem seriously enough, an American drugs control official said yesterday.

Brian Stickney, a counsellor with the American mission to the European Union, said newly-formed crime rings in the former Eastern bloc were turning to the lucrative drug trade, and that the EU had failed to recognise the threat it posed. (Reuter)

Havel surgery

Prague: President Havel of the Czech Republic will undergo exploratory surgery on his lungs next week, the presidential office said. He was admitted to hospital on Monday with pneumonia. (Reuter)

Belarus split

Minsk: Supporters of President Lukashenko set up a new breakaway parliament in Belarus, formalising a split in the legislature after Sunday's referendum on extending his powers. (Reuter)

Drinkers' woes

Moscow: The number of Russians treated for alcoholism has reached 2.5 million, and the head of the state narcotics centre said the actual number may be ten million or more. the Trud newspaper said. (AP)

Disney feud

Peking: A Disney film. Kundun, about the Dalai Lama, Tiber's exiled spiritual leader, has angered China. Peking is seeking to tighten its rule over Tibet, which it annexed in 1951. (AP)

Dining out

Taipei: Swindlers who sent out invitations to a non-existent wedding feast duped wellwishers out of thousands of pounds. Money was wired to an account number on the bogus invitations. (AP)

Netanyahu defies protests to visit Jewish settlement

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

TENSIONS between Israel be added no expansion of and the Palestine Authority rose vesterday as Binyamin Netanyahu made his first visit to a Jewish settlement since becoming Prime Minister and pledged to continue expanding the outposts built on land conquered in 1967.

His high-profile visit to the

T

West Bank town of Ariel, home to 13,000 fews, came less than 24 hours after Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian Authority leader, sent him a letter warning that new construc-tion would bury "the hoped-

for expectations of peace".

As well as displaying contempt for the Palestinian objections to his determination to boost the total of 145,000 Jews in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights, Mr Ne-tanyahn's trip flew in the face of American criticism of his settlement plans: On Monday a State Department spokes-man in Washington said they were "not helpful" to the alling

"Do you really expect that a Government was elected that said it intended to maintain the communities in Judea and Samaria and that the Prime Minister would not visit these communaties?" Mr Netanyahu asked reporters.

The visit came as Israel reinforced its force of tanks and armoured personnel carriers in the Gaza Strip after an incident on Sunday when Palestinian protesters blocked the road leading to a settlement. Mr Netanyahu said that any similar acts would be met with a tough response.

Yesterday's trip and the reaction to it from Mr Arafat were seen as evidence of a new crisis facing the peace process. "Netanyahu has to go back and read agreements concerning the settlements. Mr Arafat said, "It was agreed, no new single settlement would

Paying over £250 for Car insurance?

existing settlements." In response, Mr Netanyahu

vowed that settlements would continue to grow. From a hill-top overlooking a cluster of new Jewish homes, inhabited since his Government ended the four-year freeze on settlements imposed under Labour, he declared: "I think the Palestinians and some Israelis better get used to the idea that we are going to live together."

Surveying the surrounding territory, which the Palestin-ians hope will one day be part of their state, he said: "Look at this land. It is empty - it has been empty for thousands of

years. We have a life here."

The Prime Minister, whose May election triumph over Labour's Shimon Peres was achieved by almost 100 per cent support among the rightwing settlers, used his tour of Ariel to underline his refusal to uproot a single settlement as part of any future peace deal with the Arabs.

Servior Israeli officials accused Mr Arafat of deliberate ly inflaming the public mood. They said he was trying to provoke more violence such as the incidents in September that left 75 people dead and 1,500 injured.

"Arafat is playing with fire.

Apparently he only understands the use of force," one senior Israeli officer said.

In south Lebanon yesterday Hezbollah guerrillas killed a suspected security agent for an Israeli-allied militia, Lebanese security officials.

London: Syria scorned suggestions yesterday that. Da-mascus could resume peace talks with Israel soon (Michael Binyon writes). Farouq al-Sharaa, the Foreign Minister. said after talks here with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, that the Netanyahu Government was not willing to continue the talks along the lines that had already been agreed. "It would be a waste of time if we throw all that we have agreed into the sea," he

He also said there was a "contradiction" in Mr Netanyahu's proposal to start peace talks again while refusing to withdraw from the Golan Heights on the basis of land for peace. "It shows that he is not serious at all about achieving peace in the Middle East."

Jubilant **Iraqis** hail UN oil deal

IN NICOSIA

JUBILANT Iraqis danced in the streets yesterday after the Government agreed to United Nations terms to sell a limited amount of oil to buy much-needed food and humanitarian supplies.

As the Iraqi dinar soared against the dollar, officials the first time since Iraq invaded Kuwait six years ago. "The flow of oil means the flow of the government-run al-Jum-

ger and disease.
President Saddam Hussein had shown little enthusiasm because the deal involves an intrusive UN monitoring system. He had also feared it may delay the lifting of the overall embargo by enabling Washington to say that the UN had addressed Iraq's humanitarian needs. The breakthrough could help him, however, by releasing money he has spent on the state rationing system to buy patronage and fund illegal



predicted that Iraqi oil would begin flowing next month for life back to Iraq." trumpeted

houring newspaper.

The deal, signed last May, allows Iraq to sell \$2 billion (£1.25 billion) oil over six months to buy food and medicine. It was delayed by Iraq's military intervention in the Kurdish "safe area" in August, and by Baghdad's attempts to restrict the UN monitors ensuring supplies are evenly shared among lraq's 18 million people. Uni-cef estimated in October that 4,500 children under five were dying each month from hun-

weapons programmes. Western diplomats said.



An Iraqi in Baghdad absorbs the oil news

Italians urged to rediscover their Latin roots

IN ROME A CAMPAIGN has been launched for Latin to be reintroduced as a compulsory subject in Italian schools after an

FROM RICHARD OWEN

absence of more than 30 years. Latin is still taught in private Roman Catholic schools. However, it has not been taught since 1963 in the state-run scuola media, which all Italians attend between the ages of 11 and 14. Latin is an integral part of the curriculum in some high schools, attended by pupils between 14 and 19, but this accounts for only a third of the 14-19 age group

and many Italians leave school at 14 with only a scuola media education. The campaign is led by Giancarlo Rossi, a Milan architect, who argues

that Latin was dropped because many left-wing teachers in the 1960s mistakenly saw it as a "symbol of the ruling class". Signor Rossi said Latin also suffered from its association with the Fascist era, when Latin was compulsory in all schools, partly because of Mussolini's attempt to use the Roman imperial past to promote his own ideology. The mortal blow was when the [Catholic] Church abandoned Latin in the liturgy," Eduardo Sanguinetti, a poet, said. Signor Rossi, editor of Latinitas, a Latin-language magazine, first issued his appeal in Micro Mega. a small but influential left-wing magazine. It was taken up by Corriere della Sera. "Latin formed our civilisation and society," Signor Rossi said. "Its importance and relevance today cannot be exaggerated. He wants the European anthem" - Beethoven's Ode to Joy — to be sung in Latin.

The campaign is backed by leading authorities on classical history such as Professor Elio Lo Cascio of Naples University and Professor Gaetano Bonetta of Chieti University. They say

an "obsession with modernism" under the left-wing Government of Romano Prodi has led to a deplorable downgrading" of the classics in the

Italian curriculum. Ironically, Italians are familiar with the language since at least 60 per cent of Italian words are derived from it. Cesare Segre, a writer and critic, said "Whereas in the medieval world you could go to any part of Europe and be understood in Latin, now English is the universal language, and we have to accept that."

Leading article, page 25

OJ denials leave experts aghast

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

O.J. SIMPSON yesterday re-turned to his civil trial for causing wrongful death after leaving experts aghast with a series of bold but scarcely credible denials the previous day. One leading lawyer said: "He's drowning himself."

Mr Simpson denied ever owning an incriminating pair of Italian shoes despite being shown a photograph of him-self wearing them. The pic-ture, he said, was a fake. The shoes were identified as identical to a pair that left bloody footprints beside the mur-dered bodies of Nicole Brown Simpson, his former wife, and Ronald Goldman, Mr Simp-

son's alleged victims. Earlier he insisted that he had never taken a lie-detector test after the June 1994 mur-ders, even though his lawyers have admitted that he had.

Daniel Petrocelli, lawyer for the Goldman family, said: "You failed the polygraph." -"No," Mr Simpson replied. "You got a minus 22," the lawyer continued. "Minus 22 is a score indicating extreme

Mr Simpson claimed the test had merely been a demonstration. He later said he had no idea how his blood and that of both victims had turned up the day after the killings in his Ford Bronco and in his house and its grounds.

But anyone who hoped that Mr Simpson would crack under Mr Petrocelli's hostile barrage was disappointed by a performance of astonishing composure. Mr Simpson never lost his cool or hesitated for a moment. Whether his denials will save him from defeat is

Playwright's teacher claims 'Rent' arrears

FROM OUENTIN LETTS. IN NEW YORK

A SQUABBLE over copyright threatens to ruin Broadway's latest hit show.

The musical Rent was written by a struggling young playwright, Jonathan Larson. who died of a heart complaint on the eve of its success. Now Lynn Thomson, Mr Larson's former drama professor, has claimed that she collaborated with the author and deserves some of the credit for the show's success — plus \$40 million (£26 million)

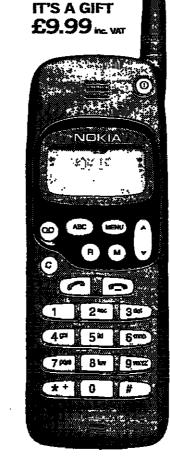
Rent is a modern American share of the royalties.

reworking of La Boheme with a rebellious undertone that pleased Manhattan's armchair socialists. It has been hailed as a new genre of Broadway musical, a change from the mainly British, glitzy epics of the past two decades. The show has taken about

\$250 million at the box office since it opened in February. When touring deals, recording contracts and future seat sales are taken into account, it could be worth \$1 billion.

Mr Larson's father, who administers his son's estate, vowed to fight Ms Thomson's demand for a \$40-million

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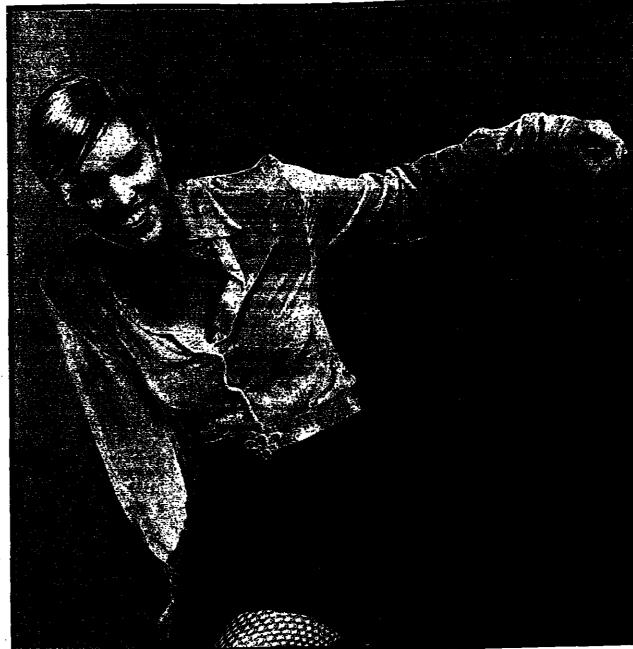
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Minimalism is the golden rule



Grace Bradberry

From chain mail tops to stylish belts — putting on the glitz has never been so easy since designers joined the season's gold rush

ead-to-toe gold was one of the more daring style statements of the 1980s. Krystle Carrington, of Dynasty, was its most famous exponent. Her scoop-neck, gold lame evening dress, with its buttress shoulder pads,

It also filled department stores with extraordinary mehaste, they were then repented at leisure by women who snapped them up, hoping to recreate the glitzy high life of the series at their local dinner-

So debased was the style

currency of gold by these excesses that designers have steered clear of it for some Even in America, where the

gold rush is part of the national myth, the sight of Trump Tower, looming above Manhattan in all its gold vulgarity, prolonged the reign

world forgot its inhibitions and returned to the precious metal for inspiration.

Michael Kors, an influential American designer, created gold chain mail tops. Ralph Lauren gave another transatlantic interpretation with gold-lace dresses in his Polo line, while at Gucci Torn Ford, another statesider, produced Halston-inspired gold sandals with ankle straps, block heels

and platform soles. There is no need to go for the

But this autumn, the fashion full Shirley Eaton effect, how-orld forgot its inhibitions ever. (For those who don't know their Bond films, she was the girl whom Auric Goldfinger annihilated with a top-to-toe paint job.) Instead, gold accessories can be used to lift colours such as brown and to tone with the season's blonde shades.-

There are plenty of catwalk precedents. Istante, one of the Versace lines, combined a heavy gold helt with the mili-tary look. So, too, did Chanel, and its heavy jewelled belt, worn by Stella Tennant in numerous adverts, has been

one of the most photographed accessories of the season.

Fortunately there is no need to spend several hundred pounds to achieve the look—the Otto Clarz belt nictured. the Otto Glanz belt pictured here (top right), with its jewel-encrusted buckle, is clearly inspired by the Chanel and costs a relatively modest £59.

ost of the major names in cosout simple, curving gold torques and earrings that are chunky but minimalist

chunky but minimalist.

Even so, since jewellery has been out of fashion for a couple of years, it's best to avoid overdoing things. Golden shades of clothing, a gold belt and a gold bracelet would be too much. Without careful editing the effect can be more nouveau riche than ancien regime

regime.
This season, gold is all about classicism — a look that is not so much antique as inspired by antiquity. Burnished golds, bronzed "old golds" and yellowy gilts are all part of the spectrum — and are more tasteful than the full-on medallion shades that fall in the middle.

Look around and it's possible to find plenty of clothes that give a nod to gold without being too glaringly obvious.

And finally, don't buy too much. The gold standard may have been long-lived but fashion is famously more fickle.



Seventies sunglasses. This pair is the very height of kitsch glamour and costs £109 from Cutter and Gross, 16 Knightsbridge Green, London SW1 (0171-581 2250). Mustn't have: Jumpsutts, boilersuits, all-in-ones whatever you call them, it's the same unflattering style. So what do designers do? They bring them back . . .

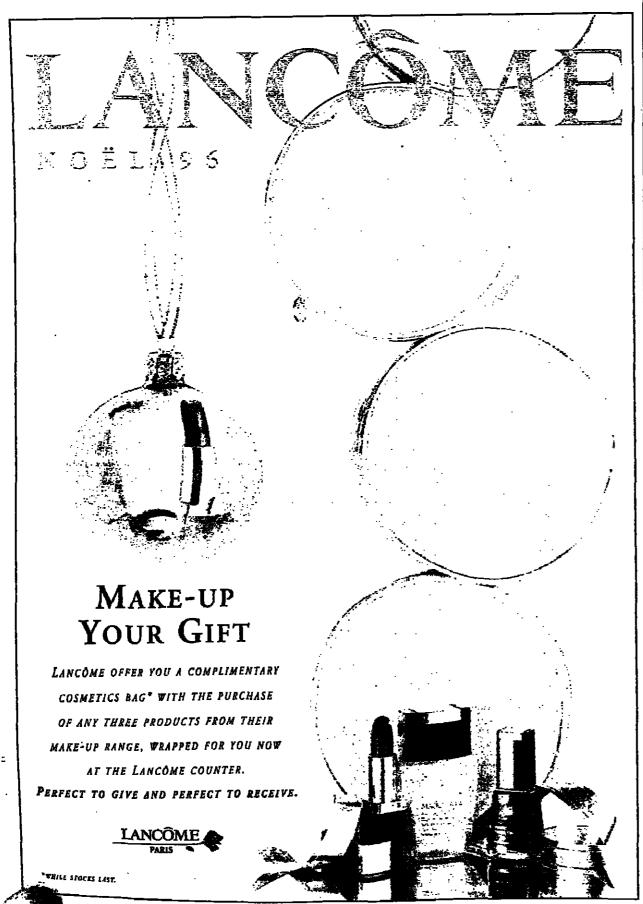


Moleskin trousers, £115, by Morgan. Gold strap top, £40, by Warehouse. £54.99 by Ravel ABOVE RIGHT: A-

Jigsaw, Gold belt, 1259, by Otto Glariz Sud, available at Harrods. Belt, £19.95 by Otto Glanz at Fenwicks.

LEFT: Gold Lurex dress, £85, by No Such Soul, Hype DF, Kensington High Street.

Photographer: STEVE POOLE. Hair and Make-up: Nicky Tavilla at Terrie Tanaka using Shuemura, Model:





When what you wear says who you are



Nigella Lawson

Once we were afraid to discuss our clothes. Not any more

it's happened to royalty, it's happened to astrology, now it's happening to clothes: once all these subjects were considered the conversational preserve of the intellectually challenged, the less than socially respectable: these days they are considered acceptable dinner-party charin the politest of society.

Well, times change, that fact alone is a constant. Once it was considered most dreadfully coarse to comment on what one was eating: now, as they say, food is the new rock noted and everyone has their own riff. No meal is considered complete without full culinary analysis: as a friend back from a nine year spell in LA commented to me at a recent dinner party in London, everyone's a food critic now. But clothes? That's an odder one, because what has kept people publicly silent on the subject so far has been not the fear of sounding coarse but the fear of sounding self-absurbed. No one wants to be seen to expend any energy, any attention on their appearance. But evidently they do, and these days they're not afraid to show it. Shallowness is the new chic. And in the television age,

.1 _2

4 > 3

image is everyone's concern. At a recent dinner party people were most exercised. not by talk of what the Chancellor might or might not do yesterday, but of what this month's Vogue had pronounced on appropriate wear for the forthcoming party season. It's not so much that this was being discussed that interested me, but that everyone had a view. The London Evening Standard concluded yesterday that the Dress-Code risis was all but intractable. It was joking. But for an increasing number of people.

this is a very serious matter.
It strikes me now that it is rather old-fashioned and earnest of me to look so askance at. the whole subject. The clothes a person wears are. I suppose, just as telling as the books he or she chooses to read.



Whooping it up at the London Love Ball in The Fridge, Brixton. As the party season begins, appearance is all

1960s, however much we read about the glorious blossoming of individuality in that decade, there was only one way to look. If staying in the 1960s for a minute, you look at pictures of the Queen, even of the Queen Mother, at that time, you will see that they were wearing short skirts. That was the fashion, and fashion dictated everything.

e might think this to have been constraining, but actually there is liberating about such dictatorial dress codes: in conforming to fashion we are not expressing ourselves, merely reflecting trends.

Now, of course, when men and women can wear pretty much what they want, every item of clothing can be scrutinised (and probably is) for what it says about the wearer: No wonder it makes In the old days, even in the otherwise respectable people

panic. Men are newcomershere. Women have always. whether voluntarily or reluctantly, been required to look as if they've bothered, but men have traditionally wanted to look as if they ve somehow acquired their dothes by accident and hardly noticed what

they wore. But now there's no stopping them (the proliferation of men's fashion titles, the whole burgeoning genre of the men's glossy, for God's sake, says something) and there isn't a red-blooded, pin-striped male who doesn't have a sartorial take on life which he is happy

to share with the rest of us. If I say "nice tie" to a man l might be sitting next to at dinner, he no longer thanks me but moves on. He thanks me, agrees, got it and then moves on -- to his

I rather like the coming out of the male dandy. After

all, one of the things women have always known about men is that they do worry about what they look like, and they do spend rather longer getting dressed than we do. I can get washed, brushed, made-up and clothed in about 15 minutes. I have never met a man so rigorous about his toilette. Or certainly not a man under 45: I own there is a generational cut-off point.

Perhaps I am unduly biased here, married as I am to a man whose wardrobe is about three times as extensive as mine and

whose annual spending on clothes is even more than that. It occurs to me that, for the last four parties we have been to, he has worn a different outfit each time and I have worn the same thing.

I am not pretending a lofty superiority about any of this. I do not claim to be above worrying about what I look like, but I deal with the matter in a rather different way. In common with a great number of women, I have my uniform (short skirt, high boots, long top - since you ask). Women have to find a uniform and

stick to it, because we can never be sure that the prevailing fashion will suit us. 'He owns Men know that, give or take, they three will be required to wear trousers, shirt times as and jacket of some description, but the many physique they are clothes pected to change with the seasons as I do' Women's clothes are more cruelly

demanding: and so we have to find a way of confronting this. It's also a way of not worrying about what to wear. And the fear, once routinely expressed, that it would be social death to be seen in the same dress twice is now redundant. Because actually, people don't notice: one of the great benefits of the new

Now that appearance is on the agenda, we are so taken up with our own that we are obligingly insouciant about other people's. No dress code,



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Alan Coren on why he can never buy a thing

since I know my readership to be as caring as it is observant, I feel sure you were deeply concerned as to why, in all the charming snaps of yes-terday's Harrods book-signing session, there was not one single shot of the Duch-ess of York's radiant, and celebrated, feet. Well, I have taken up the matter on your behalf and it appears that, on the best medical advice, her ankles were shackled to the table-leg. For had she got loose in the giant store for even a couple of minutes, the sole object of the exer-cise would have been defeated utterly: instead of signing her way out of debt, the poor soul would have signed herself far deeper into it. Any royalties (if she will pardon the ex-pression) that her autographing managed to accumulate would have been derisory when set against what that same nib could have got up to on a stack of credit-card slips, as bracket clocks, train sets, three-piece suites, onvx chessmen, top hats, boiled lobsters, slide trombones, electric whirlpools, dinner jackets, gazebo kits, cricket stumps, mantel mirrors, pedal bins, mountain bikes, fancy mice and all the rest piled up at customer collec-

so poignantly revealed, the Duchess suffers from what she has identified as a serious disease. An epidemiologist of considerable, albeit amateur, standing, she has concluded, after years of research, that it's a bit like bulimia, but with more designer labels. Its symptoms are unmistakable. If you catch it, you cannot stop shopping. You buy anything. You buy

everything. You go broke. And even as my heart goes out to her today, my gratitude goes, too. For in bringing into the open a disease which hitherto had dared not speak its name but which now enters the medical canon as High Shopping Pressure, she has enabled me, at last, to see that what I had always believed to be some kind of character deficiency in myself was in fact the symptom of a major illness which is clearly the obverse of her own. Unable to shop, incapable of buying anything. I now realise that

Shop till you drop, or else just ďon't

start

tion points. Because, as she has

> what I suffer from is Low Shopping Pressure. Here I am in Harrods. have come to buy ties.

I have ties at home, bought by other people, but they have grown variously wrinkled, frayed or eggy, and I have been urged to buy new ones. I stand in front of a hundred assorted spots and stripes for half an hour. I pull some out. I knot some on my finger. I take some to the mirror. Then 1 put them all back, and think: what I really need is socks. I look at a lot of socks. They do not seem very different from the socks I

fter I have picked up a hundred shirts and put them down keep coming out of the changing room and staring at legs I do not know. As I pull my own trousers back on for the last time, my wallet falls out. I notice how battered it is. I spend half an hour in the wallet department. I know it has been half an hour because I look at my watch. It is not much of a watch. It is less much

than my wallet is, Luckily, the watch department is near by. It is full of great watches. After not seem to tell the time any better than mine. Perhans all mine needs is a new strap. I examine a lot of straps, until it occurs to me that a new strap might make my old watch look even older. Unlike a gold Dunhill cigarette lighter — provided. of course, that I held it in the hand my old watch wasn't on the wrist of.

I have always fancied a gold Dunhill cigarette lighter. I now look at so many of them that I lose track of why I always fancied one. But having driven all the way to Knightsbridge and found a parking space where, thanks to how time flies when you are unable to buy anything. I will now find a £30 ticket, it seems a pity not to get a hat, and brown brogues to go with it; but once it transpires that my illness prevents me from buying the it for them to go with. I find myself walking about in a sequence of silk dressing-growns which I have always fancied would be just the thing to pull a gold Dunhill out of the pocket of. But not, all things considered, a tin Zippo.

Touldn't it be better to buy a new tennis-racket? I have heard about these revolutionary big rackets, they can improve your game no end. Oh look, I am walking into the sports department, it has 38 revolutionary big rackets, I am practising my back-hand on each of them. oh look, I am walking out of the sports department, how can know which big new racket will most improve my game no end, and what's wrong with my old little

racket, anyway? What I ought to do is pop across to the book department. The Duchess might still be there. She could buy me things, if 1 Even if I couldn't, she might be able to recommend a good doctor.

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Good politics, perhaps; good economics, no

By Tim Congdon

A lmost alone in Europe, Britain is enjoying a vigorous upturn in economic activity. In the last few months consumer spending has been growing at an annual rate of about 4 per cent, and companies are becoming more optimistic. In the Budget Speech, the Chancellor forecast that growth of national output would reach 312 per cent next year, well above the long-run trend.

The main cause of the return to better economic conditions is an acceleration in monetary growth. In the 3½ years to the end of 1994, the money supply (measured by the broad measure M4, including bank and building society deposits) grew at an annual rate of about 5 per cent. Since then it has been increasing by about 10 per cent a year.

As in previous episodes of this kind, the faster rate of monetary expansion is having its earliest effects in the financial sector. Financial institutions find that their holdings of cash are much higher than they expected, and are trying to rid themselves of the excess money by buying assets such as shares and property. But for the system as a whole these efforts are self-defeating, for one institution's purchase of equities is another institution's sale. Excess liquidity is driving a strong rise in share prices. It is no coincidence that the stock market is at almost its

The climb in share prices has made the rich feel better off. The price of large houses, particularly in central London, are rising sharply, but this spills out into the rest of the housing market as people buy and sell. People are feeling wealthier and are spending more. This pattern is similar to that found in the early phases of the booms of 1972

and 1973, and of the late 1980s. So the essential thing for the Chancellor yesterday was to dampen down monetary growth. In fact, there is almost nothing in the Budget speech itself, or in the accompanying documents, about the need for a big shift in monetary policy. Admittedly there was a valid recognition that the buoyancy of the economy argued against large tax cuts. This is fine as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough. If the Chancellor were trying to manage the economy by fiscal means, taxes should have been not cut but raised. Yet any politically feasible change in the tax level would have been trifling, relative to the power of the monetary forces now at work.

The overall effect of the Budget measures is quantified as net "giveaway" of £735 million. When allowance is made for tax increases of £1,085 million announced in previous Budgets and taking effect only now, the impact is slightly to withdraw spending power from the economy. Mr Clarke could even boast that with remarkable political bravery he has organised a dellationary fiscal stance only six months from an election.

ut this overlooks what is happening to Credit and the money supply. Every month banks and building societies are extending billions of pounds of new credit. In the six months to October the average monthly figure was more than £6 billion. Against this background, it is a little puzzling that commentators should make such a fuss about whether the net effect of the get measures should be zero rather than plus or minus two or four billion. The fiscal go-kart is overwhelmed by the monetary steamroller.

The Chancellor's most urgent task is to reduce monetary growth. A 10 per cent annual growth of the quantity of money can, for a few quarters, be reconciled with a bubbling stock market, rising house prices, buoyant economic actitivy and low inflation. It may also lead to a politically welcome return of the "feel-good" factor. But in the long run it is fantasy to imagine that current monetary trends are consistent with the Government's

target for retail price inflation of 2½ per cent.

Mr Clarke probably knows this. But he also knows that - such is the lack of interest in the complexities of monetary policy - he can conceal his monetary laxity by the apparent rigour of fiscal policy. Indeed, in the Budget Speech his references to monetary growth were so perfunctory as to invite the charge of disingenuousness. He claimed that "any risk to this recovery from

inflationary pressures re-emerging" remains "a good way off", and that he "would stay ahead of the game on monetary policy", finishing with the references to the steadiness of Eddie and the canniness of Ken. But the self-applause cannot hide the highest rates of monetary growth since the Lawson boom and unsustainably rapid growth in domestic demand. To talk about the economy's prospects in 1997 without recognising the importance of monetary policy is Hamlet without the Prince. But a better reference would be to Hamlet without the ghost. Nearly all the stop-go and boom-bust cycles in the post-war period have begun under Tory governments, with excessive growth of the money supply, usually before an election. The spectres of all those unsuccessful Tory Chancellors (Maudling, Barber, Lawson) ought to haunt Mr Clarke tonight.

The author is one of the Chancellor's indepen-

Peter Riddell says the Chancellor's pre-election sins have been modest by past standards

The Budget was a bravura Com-mons performance which should boost Tory morale and the party's short-term standing in the polls, but it is not nearly as virtuous in the long term as Kenneth Clarke claimed. It was a careful pre-election balancing act — offering a little in headline tax "cuts" and protection of priority programmes such as health and education, while trying to reassure City markets and avoid a rise in interest rates by a cut in public borrowing. The real test, however, is whether the Budget still looks good after

Mr Clarke can rightly take credit for the beneficial results of some tough decisions taken over the past three years. and for a strong economy, with further growth and declining unemployment in prospect. He has been a good Chancellor, one of the best since the war. He has resisted the usual pre-election temptations somewhat more than most of his predecessors. There is no big tax "giveaway" here, and the overall impact of the measures announced yesterday is to tighten fiscal policy, reducing public borrowing by £1.8 billion next year. That is more than Roy Jenkins managed in his pre-election Budget in 1970, which has long been regarded as the model of pre-election probity.

Yet if Mr Clarke has not sacrificed all of the hard-won gains in public finances of his Chancellorship, he has nevertheless taken some big risks. Before jumping to conclusions after listening to a Budget speech, it is always advisable to read the Red Book, with the detailed forecasts and analyses. These show that

Bravura Budget, but not as virtuous as it looks

Mr Clarke has made some optimistic assumptions. He offered the rosy prospect - and many would say miraculous prospect — of the economy growing by 3 per cent or more over the next few years at the same time as inflation falls to the official target of 21 per cent or less. That would be a milestone in postwar British economic history. Business certainly reports that inflationary pressures are lower than would previously have been expected at this stage of an economic upturn. But the Bank of England is not alone in believing that further rises in interest rates will be necessary to contain inflation.

The expectation of continued rapid growth fuelled by a consumer boom is central to Mr Clarke's forecast of a decline in public borrowing. He said yesterday that it would be £4 billion less in 1997-98 than expected in the summer's economic forecasts. This is what has allowed him to say that Britain's Budget deficit will next year be within the Maastricht targets to qualify for a European single currency, and will at last be in balance by the end of the

Mr Clarke clearly enjoyed pointing out the possibility that we could still

enter the single currency, even though he well knows that no Conservative Chancellor is likely to announce that decision in the foreseeable future.

Public borrowing has been slow to: decline over the past couple of years because of a big shortfall in tax receipts. The Treasury believes this problem has been cracked — both because the consumer boom is pushing up tax revenue, and because of what is called a "spend to save" package intended to crack down on tax evasion of all kinds and on social security fraud. This is all. of course, desirable, but the Treasury may be premature and overoptimistic in assuming that this programme to stop. scroungers and cheats" will bring in nearly £7 billion over the next three years. Such waste and fraud are notoriously difficult to eliminate. That makes a big difference to all the

The spending plans are not quite what they seem either. Mr Clarke has defied the doubters and held down spending in real terms more successfully than many of us expected over the past two years. But he expects even tighter restraint over the next three years. This assumes a very tight squeeze on public sector pay, and

also assumes that falls in public sector capital spending will be offset by the raising of money from the private sector, through the Private Finance Initiative. Moreover, the detailed spending proposals have a pre-election gloss. Stephen Dorrell can taunt Labour by proclaiming a big rise in spending on patient care in real terms next year, but the Red Book projects that NHS spending will be at best unchanged in real terms in later years. That is implausible, so any post-election Chancellor will have to find money to fund the real terms rise which the Tories have promised and which is

work in education.
The tax picture too is patchier than Mr Clarke pretends. His balance of measures, combining a rise in allowances with the symbolic lp cut in the basic rate of income tax and even a few gestures in a "green" direction, was shrewdly judged. And Mr Clarke has taken sensible measures to safeguard the tax base. That is all to the good, but it makes little overall difference to the amount of tax we will pay next year, especially when likely big increases in council tax are taken into account. The total tax

necessary to maintain standards. There are similar blue smoke and mirrors at

burden, raxation's share in the overall economy, is forecast to rise next year and for the rest of the century, despite the

small cuts in income tax.

Labour was last night pointing to the
22 tax rises announced by the Tories since 1992. The election odds remain unchanged. Nonetheless, it was carefully crafted to woo former Tory supporters, after discussions not just in the Treasury but also in focus groups of key target voters. It is a voter-friendly package, as Labour believes its promise of a 10p starting rate and a cut in VAT on fuel is too. Tory strategists believe what matters electorally is which party is more credible in promising future tax cuts. The truth is that neither party can honestly promise real tax cuts.

The true message of Mr Clarke's Budget is about tight limits on the freedom of manocuvre felt by any Chancellor, even when the economy is doing as well as it is now. It is a real achievement to get public spending back down to 40 per cent of national income and to limit the rise in the tax burden. There is no scope for any relaxation. Any post-election Chancellor will almost certainly have to tighten fiscal policy further. No wonder Gordon Brown is so keen to stop his Shadow Cabinet colleagues making

spending commitments. Nonetheless, Mr Clarke deserves at least one and a half cheers. His preelection sins have been modest by past standards. He has been overoptimisic, but he has not been irresponsible. After all, he does not want to make it harder for a Labour government to enter a European single currency.

Climax to an exchequered career

Europe is the only reason why Clarke is

not the Tory heir apparent — but he

insults the sceptics with relish

urely we can lay the Great British Budget in its grave. Theatres used to be plead with critics not to give away the endings of whodunnits. The Treasury behaves likewise. Budgets were once surrounded with such secrecy and suspense that Treasury staff went into "purdah" for weeks beforehand. MPs put on top hats. Sterling held its breath. Lobby journalists behaved like acolytes so much as a particle from a Budget speech beforehand and markets crashed, the Empire tottered and ministers were struck dead on the spot.

These days Budgets are so boring that when the Daily Mirror gets an advance copy it has the ghosts of its Fleet Street forebears turning in their graves. It actually hands it to Downing Street burbling that even without an injunction it would not

want to cause turbulence in the financial markets. Besides, the penny off income tax was old news. These days, the Budget details, mostly variants on a theme of indexation, are so pre-spun by a myriad manipulators as to be tedious. As for the Treasury injunction, given the doctored leaks that ministers give morn-ing radio every day in defiance of Commons protocol, the least Whitehall might do is honour an honest-togoodness scoop with a dignified silence. Modern Budgets rarely cause upheaval in a nation's economy or the income of

its citizens. Economic fine-tuning is a continuous process. The Budget may put a few pounds on incomes here, take a few pounds off there, but interest rate changes do that every month, as do building societies and pension companies. Budgets raise or lower the price of some products, but so do producers. Budgets make forecasts, but they are no more accurate than private sector forecasts. Every Chancellor complains bit-terly in his memoirs that Budget forecasts are next to worthless. Denis Healey railed against them, as did Nigel Lawson. Like the rest of the perfor-

mance, they are ritual. The formal Budget debate is unreal. The true debate has been tearing Downing Street and the press apart all summer and autumn. Nobody who cares can be ignorant of the fate of 1997-98 spending totals for roads, education. health, the arts. All have been decided and leaked. The blood has been spilt, the carpets cleaned. The Budget merely signifies that the debate is over. It is the Treasury's version of the Queen's Speech, a sort of Whitehall prizegiving, with contestants gathered on stage for bouquets and commiserations.

Nor have Oppositions anything con-structive to say. Economic policy in Britain has been stripped of all but syn-thetic controversy. The Chancellor may argue with the Bank of England, but Labour's Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have nothing to add.

As for public spending. Mr Brown treats his Shadow colleagues with the same ferocity as Mr Clarke and his Chief Secretary treat theirs, and for the same reason. Both must hold down expenditure and public borrowing so as to

hold down taxes. Both want to appear as responsible custodians of the economy. Both agree on the rough balance of public and private expenditure. A modern Budget honours Walter Bagehot's principle that government is most excellent when it is most dull. Yesterday's Budget could as well have been read out by Mr Brown.

One minor mystery remains unsolved. This was clearly yet another polished performance by the man once portrayed as the prime minister in waiting. The strange 'Affair of the Chancellor's Career" is an enigma that would test the ingenuity of a Conan Doyle. Cartoonists used to draw Kenneth Clarke as a giant with his feet up on the desk waiting for John Major to fall through a trapdoor. He was more than the hot tip for the succession. Political punters were taking bets every year on "Clarke by Christmas*

Suddenly he stumbled. Lesser souls such as Michael Portillo, John Redwood, Malcolm Rifkind, Gillian Shephard and Stephen Dorrell were at his shoulder. Mr Clarke still dominates every parliamentary occasion, as he did Monday's ridiculous Euro-row - with Michael Heseltine, he remains a Cabinet heavyweight — but what happened? Mr Clarke is said to have put too many bullets in his foot over the question of



European monetary union. For potential Tory leaders, this is a topic of Trollopean subtlety. Each is expected to have a view that combines total conviction with absolute ambiguity. Above all he must not gratuitously insult the Eurosceptics, whose strength in the party is out of proportion to that in the country.

Mr Clarke not only insults them, but does so with gusto. He regards sceptics not as patriots to whose concern over Brussels intervention he is naturally attentive. He regards them as barking mad. It is as if Mr Clarke were determined to enter that Valhalla of senior Tories, where lie "the best leaders the party never had". Yesterday he

For all this, we did have a glimpse of a more important budget. In a world less obsessed with political glamour, neither

merely deepened the mystery.

Mr Clarke nor his speech would have held centre stage this week. That role would have gone to an announcement that should have reduced the Budget to a footnote in the financial pages. The announcement will affect the living and working conditions of Britons for years to come. The announcement was central to the economic use of the nation's scarcest resources. Yet it has no parliamentary sex appeal. No minister's reputation hangs on it. No opposition

most newspapers. I refer to John Gummer's "reallocation" of land for development across the length and breadth of England. The announcement reflects a bone-crunching confrontation between local democracy and central planning. I believe the

frontbencher will make his name oppos-

ing it. The story rated barely a column in

resolution of this true budget will come to dominate British politics in the next decade, far more than marginal shifts in income distribution. It is the politics of new citizenship" proclaimed by the American Michael Sandel, the politics of Labour's communitarians and of social markets, properly so-called.

The Environment Department is one of the last redoubts of socialist planning in Whitehall. It still adds up the amount of development "needed" in each area, as if the railway, the commuter, the motorway and the second home had never been invented — and as if Adam Smith had never described the operation of prices. Thus Hampshire allegedly "needs" 160,000 more homes, and Cambridgeshire 120,000. This approach has over the past quarter-century filled Bed-fordshire and Buckinghamshire with saburbs, covered Devon in caravan sites and depopulated Britain's inner cities.

ny economist knows that need for land is a function of price. determined within a framework of land-use planning. What was significant yesterday was the evidence that the Government is at least ready to be robust on the planning. Mr Gummer wants to see derelict and already developed land used for the bulk of new settlement, to protect the countryside from sprawl and from the traffic

that dispersal generates. Every opinion poll puts the English countryside, its woods, fields and hills, as top of the public's appreciation of the British way of life. The job of government is to translate this aspiration into a framework of control, and then leave prices to sort out the consequences. The past two decades have seen more of the English landscape covered in houses and shops than at any time since the 1930s, largely through the careless policies of past governments. Mr Gummer is still prepared to see 40 per cent of what he oddly calls the need for houses" satisfied from rural land. Given what has been lost in recent years, the target should be zero. But he has shifted the emphasis for future population growth back to the cities.

This is what I call a budget. It reflects a real debate over the allocation of the scarcest national resource in the long term. This is a subject that packs meetings, fills the columns of local newspapers and fires young people with campaigning zeal. Mr Gummer's decision will affect the lives of citizens for years, not just weeks, ahead. Yet we hardly noticed it amid the pomp and ceremony yesterday. Instead we screamed and roared about a predictable leak of a predictable speech of a predictable accountant's report. One day we shall have a real Budget again. Then it might be worth leaking.

Green man

JEREMY CORBYN, the far-left Labour MP for Islington North and befriender of Gerry Adams. yesterday pulled out of a speaking engagement with Bernadette McAliskey, the former Irish nationalist MP.

The morning's newspapers had reported that Bernadette's daughter Roisin was facing extradition on charges connected to an IRA mortar attack on the British Army



"Don't worry Moses, they've been leaked

barracks in Osnabrück, Germany. The news caused Bernadette Mc-Aliskey (née Devlin) to abandon her appearance at the event entitled "ireland: the Issue" and organised by Hammersmith & Fulham Trades Union Centre.

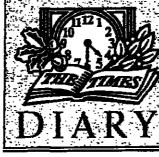
Coincidentally, the bearded, leprechaun-like MP, who dressed in green for the Budget debate, followed suit, without telling all of the organisers. His office insisted yesterday that the charges against Roisin McAliskey had nothing to do with his decision to avoid the

"It's an administrative cock-up," said his secretary unconvincingly. "He's double-booked to appear elsewhere."

Deep throat

DURING these recent chaotic days. Kenneth Clarke has been deploying the most peculiar of his many debating tricks: the gurgling laugh. Under pressure on Monday in the chamber, he used it to fight off barbs during a tense session in the Commons on Europe.

will lean weightily on the dispatch the malt-smooth Iliya Kuryakin

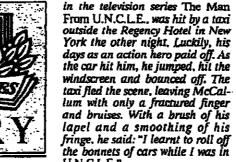


box, wave an arm in the air and emit the glugging chuckle of a chap downing his pint too eagerly. "It's a laugh that has developed in the past year," says a Whitehall source. It's not a nervous tic, it's a comeand-get-me, full-of-confidence

laugh." Experts agree. According to Cary Cooper, Professor of Organisational Psychology at Manchester University: "That strange laugh says: 'I am ready for the punch-up. I am on top of this.'"

Incidentally, when Treasury officials learnt on Monday evening that vital Budget documents had been leaked to the Daily Mirror. the Chancellor was out of reach. He was at Buckingham Palace - gurgling his way through the Budget with the Queen.

Ask him a telling question and he David McCallum, who played



taxi fled the scene, leaving McCal-lum with only a fractured finger and bruises. With a brush of his lapel and a smoothing of his fringe, he said: "I learnt to roll off the bonnets of cars while I was in U.N.C.L.E.

Streamers

PETER SCROPE, a member of one of the oldest Roman Catholic fam-



McCallum: rolled off with great aplomb

tive candidate for Darlington, a key marginal, has had his profile inadvertently raised by his local Labour. council. It recently organised a medieval pageant, for which long banners were hung from all the lampposts in blue and gold. "They all showed the Scrope shield." says the delighted Tory. ■ Visitors to Cambridge might like to avent their eyes. Local police are

growing concerned for the safety of a man who regularly parades nude on the central reservation of the MII, near Junction 12. He is often wearing a hat or a pair of underpants on his head.

ilies in Britain and the Conserva-

Prime whiff

NORMA MAJOR was on parade: at the American Ambassador's residence in Regent's Park yesterday lunchtime for the Glamour America fashion show and lunch. The guest of Shirley Crowe, the Ambassador's wife, she came away with one of the raffle prizes. She woo a bottle of DK men's cologne, which she said was more her son's sort of thing than her husband's.

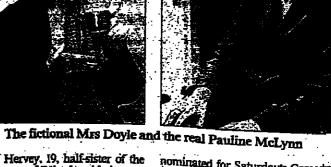
Sadly missing from the fashion parade were the professional blonde Tania Bryer and professional model Honor Fraser. In their place was the amateur Lady Vic- plice of lunatic clerics, has been



toria Hervey. 19, half-sister of the Marquess of Bristol and heiress to our friends, the Fulham It-girls. Her model's slink still has a lot of the country young about it. Given a. programme of charity events I don't doubt she will improve.

Clerical cut

FANS of the tremendous Channel 4 series Father Ted will be excited to hear that Pauline McLynn, who plays the persistently cheerful Mrs Dovle, the housekeeper to a sur-



nominated for Saturday's Comedy Awards. Though she plays a batty old woman of senior years, when she appears at the awards she will look more as she does in my picture, taken at her house in Stockwell, south London.

"The good thing is that nobody ever recognises me, unlike the other actors in the show," she says in her soft Irish tones. The bad thing is getting typecast as a mad old: woman. I'll enjoy dressing up though, and showing off the real, glamorous me."



FORWARD DEFENCE

Clarke can hardly be accused of electioneering

For the second day in a row, Kenneth Clarke has extricated himself from a tight spot. The Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered a solid Budget speech that had a little for everyone without taking risks with the economy. Having successfully reduced expectations of tax cuts, he managed to turn a modest Budget into a package popular to all — with only a little of his well-known wit.

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It is easy to forget that, earlier in the electoral cycle, there were great expectations for this Budget. After several years of fiscal austerity, the last Budget before the election was going to be munificent. It would gratify voters with large tax cuts which the Tories could then challenge Labour to reverse. These would represent the clearest, bluest water that a Conservative could find. The best escape from such an attack has been exercising Labour minds for some time.

Higher than expected public borrowing has stayed the Chancellor's hand. It has become increasingly apparent over the past year that his room for manoeuvre would be constrained by the size of the deficit. He could have ignored this problem and gone for a nakedly political Budget. But punishment would have been wreaked by the markets. So he has taken the sensible political decision that low interest rates are more important than tax cuts.

This is also the best decision for the economy. As we have repeatedly argued, a country with a strong currency and inflationary pressures needs stricter fiscal not monetary policy. Using the weapon of higher interest rates would cause sterling to rise further, making industry less competitive. By tightening the fiscal stance by some £1.7 billion. Mr Clarke has done his best to stave off the need for higher interest rates this side of an election.

Within these constraints, this pre-election Budget was suitably populist in its detail. Those at the top and bottom of the income scale will be disproportionately better off from tax cuts, thus pleasing rich Tory voters while assuaging their social consciences. The increase in the inheritance tax threshold will also appeal to wavering Conservatives, while there will be widespread support for the rise in the married couple's allowance and the reduction in benefit for new lone parents. The Budget nods towards the environment with incentives for cleaner air; and it bids for Labour territory on education, health and the social security safety net.

Its relative austerity, however, is based upon some bold assumptions about the future direction of inflation. To forecast growth rising by an extra point and inflation falling by half a point next year presupposes a virtuous combination that most Chancellors struggle to achieve. Much of the lower public spending that is needed to bring the deficit down arises from this assumption of falling inflation.

Between now and the election, then, Labour will be greatly relieved. Tony Blair's performance yesterday was as good as Mr Clarke's. He should have little problem persuading his party to abstain on Finance Bill votes; had they voted against tax cuts, the Tories could have made hay.

But in the longer term, this defensive Budget may present a trap for Labour. Should Mr Blair win office next spring, his government would be faced with public spending targets that could prove extremely difficult to meet. If inflation is higher than the forecast 2.5 per cent, public spending will automatically overrun. And while spending in areas such as health and education has been given a boost by Mr Clarke now, that is at the expense of future years, in which a real terms cut has been planned. Whichever party wins the election, the Chancellor will have left an awkward legacy.

BLOCKADE ON THE ROAD TO EMU

The lorry drivers' strike has wider implications

To those observing the French Government's attempts to squeeze an aiready depressed economy into shape for European economic and monetary union, the massive public support for the striking lorry drivers points to trouble ahead. The blockade is paralysing France, yet the drivers are being cheered on by four-fifths of the population, including professionals and civil servants as

well as union members This is hardly because the drivers are anv more typical of French workers than the miners were of British industrial relations in the mid-Eighties. Much of French industry has been drastically liberalised and is now highly dynamic; overall union membership is lower than it is in Britain. Nor is it because the lorry drivers' demands, for more pay for less work and retirement on full pension at 55, are reasonable in themselves. It is because their militancy has come to symbolise a multiplicity of different grievances - about cuts in public spending and treasured social entitlements, about the heavy social toll of high unemployment and about unaccustomed financial insecurity.

The country has had enough of austerity; and the more that President Chirac and Alain Juppé, his unpopular Prime Minister. insist that their policies would be necessary even if EMU were not in prospect, the less they are believed. Because they have not carried the country with them, every showdown weakens them further. Last year M Juppé vowed to stand firm in the face of crippling public sector strikes and demonstrations, only to retreat until there was only a tattered flutter left of the austerity programme he had first announced. This year, the Government deliberately deferred most of the budgetary pain until next year. but that has not stilled the national discontent. It looks as though he will be obliged to retreat again — this time, at heavy cost to the haulage industry.

Why is the French Government peculiarly ole? Utners nave also nad to mi painful adjustments, and have done so. In Britain, the curbing of union power and reforms in social security have been bitterly contested; but they have gone through nonetheless. In The Netherlands, a far more generous social network had to be cut back far more drastically. More recently, in Sweden the Social Democrats have dismantled the main planks of the Swedish model in order to restore budget discipline. Even Spain is now soberly facing up to its economic difficulties.

Part of the answer may lie in public cynicism about the political establishment, the legacy of more than a decade of manipulative politics under President Mitterrand. Part of it is ascribable to M Juppé's personal aloofness. But above all. people have come to suspect that EMU, far from promising a relaxation of austerity, will mean more of the same. The link with EMU is rapidly becoming a political liability. The issue may be fudged for a while and the strikers paid. But sooner or later the markets will put their money where the public's mouth is. The longer M Chirac insists on treating EMU in 1999 as France's date with destiny, the harder he will find it to restore his Government's credibility.

THE LATIN REVIVAL

Where Romans lead, may Britons follow

Luigi Berlinguer, the Italian Education Minister, is a leading ex-Communist who, like most of his former comrades and many of their sympathisers in the British educational establishment, has encouraged the decline of the "elitist" Classics. On the peninsula where Latin was born, it was dropped in the 1960s for children between 11 and 14. Since May, classical history has also been relegated to the sidelines in Italian classrooms; ancient Rome has been compressed into a brief "introduction" to the 20th century.

But now, as our Rome correspondent reports today, there is a campaign to bring latin back. It is led not just by Classics professors, who the cynics might say had a vested interest, but by a Milan architect and by Latin enthusiasts in all walks of life. Italian children, who live with the tangible evidence of the Roman genius all around them, may soon get a chance once more to understand the glories of their past. We hope that more British children will soon be joining them.

Latin is not, however, as straightforward an issue in Italy as it is here. It is not just a weapon in the battle for educational standards. Despite its prominence in the medieval world, and even more in the Renaissance, by the time of Italian unification in 1860, it was associated almost wholly with two groups, the Roman Catholic Church, which used it in the liturgy, and the Italian elite. Cavour and other leaders of the Risorgimento knew Latin well, but also associated it with the obscurantist papal states they had overthrown in their struggle to form modern Italy. For them, Italian was

the language of the people, and a key instrument of unification.

Latin remained an elite tool of knowledge until the 1920s, when Giovani Gentile, the philosopher and first Fascist Education Minister, introduced it into secondary schools. Alas for Latin, Italians - even those old enough to have benefited from the Gentile reforms - are clearly still embarrassed by the distorted and selective Fascist use of the symbolism of Ancient Rome. For Mussolini, Latin was a reminder to the masses that his imperialist ambitions were an echo of Rome's greatness. Rome is still littered with fake Roman inscriptions on buildings of the Fascist era. Postwar teachers were enthusiastic to drop Latin from the syllabus. The Catholic Church abandoned Latin in the liturgy at about the

same time. Italy's new left-wing Government is being urged to put this recent past behind it: it should heed those attempting to revive the classical past. Today's Italian youngsters feel nothing of the alleged links between Latin and II Duce. They deserve to become familiar once again with the joys of a language and literature that formed their culture and much of our own culture too. Latin may be hardly used in the Church nowadays, or even inside the Vatican; but that frees it all the more as the secular

language of Ovid and Juvenal. For too long the Second World War and the Mussolini years have been suppressed by Italians who would rather forget them. But this should not be at the expense of the Classics. If the campaign succeeds, it should encourage campaigners here too.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Avoiding traps on monetary union

From Mr Bernard Connolly

Sir, Kenneth Clarke's statement to the House of Commons on proposed European legislation on the so-called stability pact for economic and monetary union "ins" and a new exchange-rate mechanism and convergence programme for "outs" (reports, November

26) is deeply worrying.
On the new ERM, the Commission stresses what it claims to see as the need for a system "to protect the single market ... [and] ... demonstrate monetary solidarity within the Union" (COM(96)498). This need, as perceived by the Commission, must have implications for the exchangerate policies of all "outs", including the United Kingdom.

Even if the new ERM is initially voluntary, political agreement by finance ministers on a need for it will imply British acceptance of an obligation to preserve "monetary solidarity". That means advancing the interests of Germany and its monetary satellites and of France.

The reinforced convergence procedures to be imposed under the legisla-tion envisaged will extend the obligations of a new ERM to Britain. The obligatory convergence programmes must include a section on "prospects" for the exchange rate and long-term interest rates. Since no government is foolish enough to make public forecasts of these variables, prospects must be translated as targets.

At a conference in Brussels two weeks ago the head of the international monetary department of the French Finance Ministry, commenting on the proposals, stated: "We have to find a way of implementing Article 109m" (which imposes on Britain an obligation to treat its exchange rate as "a matter of common interest").

The convergence programmes, although rooted in the Maastricht treaty, impose additional legal obligations that go far beyond the provision of in-formation spoken of by Mr Clarke. Most seriously, by insisting that gov-ernments must declare and stick to budget programmes for years ahead, they infringe the spirit of the under-lying British principle that no Parliament can bind its successors.

Enacting this legislation will open the floodgates to further and even more objectionable European interference, via Article 103(5) of the treaty. in British economic and monetary policy outside the EMU. Mr Clarke tells limited Britain's freedom of action. But as he should know, qualified maj-ority voting applies under Article 103(5): Britain cannot block it.

More fundamentally, Mr Clarke's expressed support for the principle of the stability pact is evidence of his opposition to government policy on Europe. Germany's insistence on a pact reflects that country's deep and justified mistrust of certain of its potential partners in monetary union. But the imposition of a stability pact would produce economic and political chaos on the Continent, something the British Government rightly says it wants

to avoid. The Government's ideal of a partnership of co-operating, independent nations in an economically and politically stable Europe can be achieved only if monetary union is abandoned. Mr Clarke should make other countries see that by blocking the stability pact. Instead, he commends it because it seems that he wants a monetary union, and one with Britain suffering

Yours faithfully, BERNARD CONNOLLY (Head, EC Commission unit for EMS, National and Community Monetary Policies, 1989-96). Vinkenlaan 32, 3078 Everberg, Belgium. November 26.

From Mr Mark Bone

Sir, We have been bequeathed a parliamentary system by which we elect a House of Commons which enacts legislation. Just as importantly, the Commons has the power to repeal laws and we in turn have the power through the ballot box to elect a different government espousing different policies.

More and more laws and directives are emerging from the European machine and the drive towards a federal Europe is now quite transparent. With the word "irrevocable" ever more frequently appearing in the de-bate, we should all recognise that there is no mechanism whereby we can change, through the ballot box. any current policies or indeed any future policies of the Commission or the bureaucracy in Brussels.

Yours faithfully. MARK BONE, 70 Cole Park Road. Twickenham, Middlesex.

From Mr Charles Wide, QC

Sir, Professor Dashwood ("48-hour rule: why Europe is right", letter, November 19) is right about the European Court's judgment. Mr Iain Duncan Smith, MP ("Why our opt-out did not work", article, November 13), is not.

This is what is so worrying about the dominance of European law. So much power has been given away by British MPs who did not realise what they were doing and still do not fully appreciate what they have done.

Yours faithfully. CHARLES WIDE, Church Cottage, Main Street, Glapthorn, Cambridgeshire. November 20.

Safety measures on paracetamol

From Mr Alaster J. Rutherford and Mr Jonathan D. Skeeles

Sir, What a pity the Department of Health and the Medicines Control Agency have not been more bold in protecting the public against accidental overuse of paracetamol and other analgesics (report, November 23). Even when packed in smaller boxes there will be no check whatsoever in non-pharmacy outlets against multiple purchases of the same ingredient. Many preparations contain paracetamol as an ingredient but are marketed for different purposes.

The supermarket checkout or viilage newsagent will never be able to counsel on the proper use of medicines. A more radical but effective step would be to restrict the sales of medicines to pharmacies. Across the Channel paracetamol poisoning is almost unheard of. The French restrict almost all medicine sales to pharmacies, as well as having a culture which treats medicines with respect.

Those who have applauded Asda's campaign for making medicines just another commodity to be sold anywhere and only on the basis of price should reflect carefully.

Yours sincerely, ALASTER J. RUTHERFORD (Regional Secretary, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain), JONATHAN D. SKEELES

Avon Local Pharmaceutical Committee). 25a Weston Road, Long Ashton, Bristol. November 24.

From Dr T. C. Dann

Sir, It is 30 years since I wrote to the British Medical Journal on the fashion which was then starting for decrying the use of aspirin in children. Paracetamol was the drug recommended

instead. I made a plea for retaining as-

pirin, and I should like to recommend

its use again now following the belat-

ed recognition that paracetamol in

overdose is a dangerous and often le-

than paracetamol; it is considerably

cheaper and has the advantage that if

taken in overdose with suicidal inten-

tion it may well fail, since if too much

is taken it causes vomiting, which

means that the overdose is thrown up

Putting paracetamol in smaller

packages and including more warn-

ing leaflets will be of little practical

use in reducing cases of overdosage.

Aspirin may have side effects (and no

effective drug hasn't), but in general it

is a better drug than paracetamol and

its use should be restored for the gen-

eral public, except in individual cases

who have been warned against it by

Balsall Common, West Midlands.

Sir. Surely the simple answer is to in-

corporate the antidote in the parace-

tamol tablet. Such tablets are already

available, albeit slightly more expen-

that all paracetamol sold in this

country should include the antidote.

death (both deliberate and accidental)

from paracetamol poisoning would be

If the Government were to insist

and not absorbed.

their doctor.

T. C. DANN,

November 23.

Yours sincerely.

37 Balsall Street East,

From Mr Colin Armitage

sive than plain paracetamol.

almost impossible.

your obedient servant.

Aspirin is a more versatile drug

C. ARMITAGE. 26 Leicester Street. Southport, Merseyside. November 26.

I have the honour. Sir, to remain

French law

From Mr Stephen L. Phillips

Sir, Writing in your legal pages ("England is a model of reform". Law, November 19) Mr Matthew Rea explains that the English legal system is superior to the French. Why? Because English legal costs are so much higher than in France; hardly anyone can afford to go to trial; so settlements are reached out of court.

tion of how the French manage to dispense justice at a fraction of the English cost; still less does he concede that the English public might see merit in such a system.

It came as no surprise to read at the end of the article that Mr Rea is an English solicitor. They really do live in a different world to the rest of us.

Yours faithfully, STEPHEN L PHILLIPS, The Mount, Chirk, Wrexham. November 19.

From Mr Michael Gould

Sir, Comparing civil justice in England and France Matthew Rea makes the point that the English system is much more effective at securing settletrial, which is the most expensive part of the process. Potentially the most effective of the

ments of cases, thereby avoiding a

roposals for reform of English civil justice are those which aim to reinforce this strength, such as for example allowing offers to settle by either side before or during proceedings. with heavy costs penalties for the side which refuses an offer but fails to achieve a better outcome at trial. The option to make such offers is not currently available to claimants, but would contribute greatly to the objective of equalising bargaining power which, as Matthew Rea stresses, is the area to concentrate on.

The more questionable proposals for reform are those which do not readily appear so likely to contribute to this objective, such as management of cases by judges and limiting fees recoverable by successful claimants against defendants.

Yours sincerely. M. GOULD (Solicitor/Senior Lecturer in Law). Staffordshire University, Law School, Leek Road. Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. November 20.

Civil Service advice

From Lord Armstrong of Ilminster

Sir, I was surprised to see myself quoted, without my permission, in the tendentious letter from Dr David Richards and Dr Colin Hay (November 18).

It is a travesty of reality for them to talk about a "covert form of politicisation of the Civil Service". Mrs Thatcher did not "set out to personalise the top appointments system". She certainly wanted the process of senior appointments to reflect the need for per-manent secretaries who would be effective managers as well as good policy advisers; but she was not alone in that, and there were no signs of political bias in her decisions on the recom-mendations made to her. And I very much doubt whether the episodes referred to by Dr Richards and Dr Hay as "political blunders" can be blamed

on a lack of independence of mind among civil servants.

Much more authoritative were the conclusions of the Analysis programme on BBC Radio 4 on November 24, the contributors to which - all of them with considerable depth of experience of the Civil Service - clearly believed that the Civil Service had not become politicised, that the vital principle that civil servants should give informed, impartial and dispassionate advice to ministers had not been eroded, and that it remained extremely important that it should be maintain-

Sir Robin Butler's recent actions have reaffirmed that vital principle well and living in Whitehall today.

Yours faithfully, ARMSTRONG OF ILMINSTER,

Astrology and belief

From Mr Peter Mullen

Sir. It is surely a supererogation of riches to be presented with two bishons' letters on a single day (November 21). What a disappointment, then, to find a heresy in each.

The Bishop of Repton declares that belief in God is irrational — to which one can only reply, "Tell that to St Thomas Aquinas!"

The Bishop of Rochester says that God is revealed in his suffering. But the Council of Chalcedon, AD 451, in my view proclaimed among other things that God does not suffer.

Yours, in what's left of the faith, PETER MULLEN, 16 Whin Road, York. November 21.

From Canon T. S. M. Williams

Sir, I beg to differ with Mr T. J. Smith (letter, November 21). The opposite of

Business letters, page 33

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

and demonstrate that it is alive and

House of Lords. November 25.

doubt is not faith but credulity. Faith is the courage to accept doubt as an inevitable feature of finite existence. In faith it is possible to live in hope despite doubt.

Yours faithfully. TREVOR WILLIAMS (Chaplain Fellow), Trinity College, Oxford November 21.

From Mr R. P. Kalman

Sir, The Suffragan Bishop of Repton stated: Belief in God and atheism are both irrational, in the sense that they are beyond reason".

A dictionary definition of irrational is "inconsistent with reason or logic. absurd*. If something is beyond reason it surely cannot be inconsistent with it, for one cannot apply reason or

Belief in the deity and atheism are thus more appropriately described as a-rational, or even psychological.

The Bishop may be employing the wrong tools, somewhat akin to eating soup with a fork.

Yours faithfully, RAYMOND KALMAN, 21 Florence Mansions, Vivian Avenue, NW4.

Who wants to be a church gargoyle?

From Miss Liz Mahoney

Sir, Although the Chancellor of the Diocese of Peterborough has found "no legal, aesthetic or other reason" why living churchmen should not be depicted as gargoyles (report, November 19) it is a great pity that the matter

was taken as far as the church courts.

One might have expected members of the Church to concentrate their energies on the fact that more members of the public can identify the McDonald's logo than the Cross (report, later

editions, October 29). The financial plight of the Church is often mentioned in the press. But how can the public be expected to take this problem seriously when senior members of the Church authorities are attempting to resolve a dispute over gargoyles?

Yours sincerely, LIZ MAHONEY, Aberdare Hall. Corbett Road, Cardiff. November 20.

From Mr Andrew Anderson

Sir, As one who has gazed down, in stone, from high up on the walls of St Albans Cathedral for the last 15 years. I naturally take a personal interest in the two gargoyles to be installed in St Peter's Church, Oundle, But I also regard the dispute over their installation as the latest sign of alarm bells which are sounding nationwide about a wider issue: our apparent inability to do or support anything in churches.

small and great, anonymously. In the Middle Ages you only got a mention inside a church if you left money for people to pray for your soul, or if you were a mason or glazier who could find a remote spot where your name wouldn't be discovered; but today no one, it seems, is willing to give a penny without a brass plate on the wall or a pane in a window in return. At the present rate it will not be long before the historic church buildings of England are plastered with what can only be described as refined.

officially approved graffiti. The most worrying development, however, is the suggestion I have heard that the lottery is insisting that plaques are placed in prominent positions to commemorate its grants. Do we really want to be reminded during our prayers that the organ, or the coffee bar in the north aisle, or some other essential feature of our worship owes its survival to the proceeds of gambling? Some things are best left

unsaid. Yours faithfully. ANDREW ANDERSON (Surveyor to St Albans Cathedral). Norwich, Norfolk November 19.

Jam tomorrow

From Mr J. C. L. Sharp

Sir. The simple answer to Ms Jill Leyland (letter, November 20), who asked who will be driving all the vehicles expected by the year 2025, is two-to-three-car families (or households). Their number is increasing exponentially, to judge by the cars parked out-side suburban houses.

If the number of families/households is (say) 20 million, your leading article's figure (November 19) of 50 million is not so fanciful.

Of course, all these vehicles would not be moving at the same time. Yours faithfully.

J. SHARP. 27 Ward Way, Bexhill, East Sussex. November 23.

Marriage banned

From Mr Michael Faraday

Sir, I was interested to read of Denis Mullock's experience of Shell's pre-war policy of forbidding staff to marry during their first tour of duty abroad (obituary, November 9).

As a trainee member of Shell's London office staff in 1959, I was interviewed by him (then group personnel co-ordinator). He asked me if I was married or had any present intention of marrying. I said "No".

"Good," he replied. "When I joined Shell before the war the company decided whether we could marry. Now." he added indignantly, "young men think they have the right to get mar-

Yours faithfully. M. A. FARADAY. 47 York Gardens. Walton on Thames. Surrey. November 20.

Fit for the job?

From Mr C. D. Georgalakis

Sir, Poor Alexander the Great - according to Mr Cambouropoulos (letter, November 23: see also letter. November 20) he was a drunkard, and others have suggested he was bisexual and had a vile temper.

But what of the other side of the coin? Napoleon hardly drank, Hitler was teetotal and Genghis Khan only took the occasional cup of fermented mares' milk just to be social, much to the chagrin of his cronies.

Yours sincerely. C. D. GEORGALAKIS. Jefferys, Ditchling Common, Burgess Hill, West Sussex. November 24.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 26: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace

The Earl of Airlie KT (Lord Chamberlain) had an audience of Her Majesty and presented an Address from the House of Lords to which The Queen was graciously pleased to make reply. The Governor of South Austra-lia was received by Her Majesty.

The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) has an audience of

The Queen this evening.
The Duke of Edinburgh,
Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this morning chaired a meeting of the Inter-national Trustees and afterwards gave a Luncheon at Buckingham

His Royal Highness. Patron and Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this evening gave a Reception at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron

and Trustee, later attended The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Charter for Business Dinner at St James's Palce.

By Command of The Queen, Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon Her Excellency Miss June Lendore at 1 Collingham Gardens, London SW5, today in order to bid farewell to Her Excellency upon relinquish ing her appointment as High Commissioner for Grenada in

BUCKINGHAM PALACE International Trustee. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Internation Association, this morning attended a meeting of the International Trustees, followed by a Luncheon

at Buckingham Palace.
His Royal Highness, Trustee,
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. this evening attended a Reception at Buckingham Palace, The Prince Edward, Inter-

national Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, later attended a Din-ner for members of the Award's World Fellowship at the Royal Air orld Fellowship at the Royal Air Force Club, Piccadilly, London WI. BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 26: The Princess Royal. Patron, the National Autistic Society, this morning opened the new

Authority school. Northway School, the Fairway, Mill Hill London NW7. Her Royal Highness, Patron. Canal Museum Trust, later visited the exhibition "Pomp and Pleasure" and viewed the restored Tug Boat Bantam IV at the London

Canal Museum, 12/13 New Wharf

services at a London Education

Road, Kings Cross, London NI. The Princess Royal, Patron, the British Nutrition Foundation this afternoon attended the Farewell Luncheon for Dr Elsie Widdowson and presented the British Nu-trition Foundation Prize Awards at the Royal College of Physicians. II St Andrews Place, Regent's Park. London NWI

Her Royal Highness this evening attended the Farmers Club Annual Dinner and Dance at the London Hilton, Park Lane. London W1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE November 26: The Prince of Wales this evening held a Reception for Easton College at Sandringham His Royal Highness, President.

The Prince's Trust, afterwards gave a Dinner for members of the Trust's Administrative Council. KENSINGTON PALACE November 26: The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior, the Order of St John, this afternoon held a Reception and Investiture of

Knights and Dames of the Order

of St John at St James's Palace. The Duchess of Gloucester attended a luncheon to mark the 21st Anniversary of Research into Ageing at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London Wl.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, NADFAS (The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies) this evening at-tended a Private View of the Exhibition "Mysteries of Ancient China" at the British Museum, London WC1. YORK HOUSE,

November 26: The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, this afternoon attended a farewell lunch for the Regimental Secretary, Colonel Joseph Hordern, at the Royal Regi-ment of Fusiliers, Her Majesty's Tower of London.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE November 26: Princess Alexandra quarters of the Police Federation of England and Wales in Langley Road, Surbiton, Surrey,

Getting the measure of fine late fruit at the RHS show

Holly bears the sign of winter's approach

BY ALAN TOOGOOD HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

HOLLY berries, dried flowers and evergreen foliage at the Royal Horticultural Society's flower show indicate that winter is on its way.

But at this show, which onened in Westminster vesterday, it is not common or garden hollies that are attracting attention but some unusual deciduous kinds. Bluebell Nursery, of Smisby, Ashbyde la-Zouch, Leicestershire, is featuring cultivars of Ilex verticillata, extremely hardy North American hollies for lime-free or neutral soil. I. v. aurantiaca with orange berries is especially eye-catching. Bluebell Nursery is also showing shrubs with colourful bark including a new

dogwood, Cornus sanguinea

flame-coloured stems.

"Midwinter Flame" with

A very colourful gold medal display of trees and shrubs with variegated, gold and purple foliage for winter effect has been staged by Burncoose Nurseries, of Redruth, Cornwall. It features a collection of pseudopanax or lancewood from New Zealand. These trees and shrubs can be grown outdoors in Britain in milder areas, otherwise in conservatories. This is the first time such a collection has been shown and the plants are extremely variable, rang-ing from Pseudopanax ferox and P. crassifolia whose bronze leaves look like the partly opened spokes of an umbrella, to the more conventional P. lessonii "Purpurea" with purple foliage, and the gold and bright green varie-

gated P. lessonii "Gold A display of dried summer



Harry Baker, a fruit judge, uses a sizing ring to measure a dessert apple entered in the late apple competition at the RHS show. The average size should be 2% in

flowers and herbs in a blend of soft colours has been staged by Norpar Flowers, of Navestock, Essex. The exhibit, which includes roses, lavenders and hardy perennials. also shows how dried material can be arranged for indoor decoration.

Christmas and crab cacti. which are coming into their own at this time of year, are being shown by Westfield Cacti, of Kennford, Devon, among other cacti and succulents. Cultivars in some of the newer flower colours are included, such as orange 'Lucy" and "Thor Vida".

A gold medal has been awarded to Japanese Floral & Garden Design, of Kensington, London, for Ikebana floral arrangements. Gold medals have also been awarded to the following artists: Mary E Byatt, of Elgin, Grampian (water-colours of rhododendrons); Reinhild Raistrick, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (watercolours of fritillaria; and Miss Mariko Imai, of Japan

(watercolours of asarum).

It has been a difficult

season for exhibitors of latematuring fruit as ripening has been early this year. However, the RHS Garden. Wisley, Surrey, has managed to stage a fine display of late apples. The collection includes one of the best dessert cultivars, "Pixi", with bright red and yellow fruits, raised at Wisley, and the comparatively new French dessert cultivar, "Deibard Jubile", with large red and yellow fruits of reasonable flavour.

Because of the difficult season, the RHS late apple and pear competition is rather thin on the benches. Mr C. H. Gardener, of Orpington, Kent, has won the class for three cultivars of dessert apples ("Fiesta", "Lord Lambourne" and "Spartan"). Mrs J. S. Lockhart, of southwest London, has scooped a special prize for the most meritorious dish of fruit in the single-dish classes, with a large-fruited medlar, "Large Russian", which is rarely

seen at shows. in the RHS ornamental plants competition, Mr J. W. Humphris, of the Sutton

Place Foundation, Sutton Park, near Guildford, Surrey, has won the Rosse cup for three conifers (Pinus coulteri, Picea orientalis and Picea pungens glauca). Mr M. Nelhams, exhibiting for Tresco Abbey Gardens, Tresco, Isles of Scilly, has won the class for an ornamental tree or shrub in bloom with an unusual exhibit — Protea neriifolia, from South Africa. This tender shrub, with pink crown-shaped flowers, thrives outdoors on Tresco. It also gained an Award of Merit at this show.

In the Orchid Society of Great Britain's competition. held in conjunction with the show, a large specimen of Lycuste "Edward" has been judged best plant in show. Bred and shown by Dr Henry Oakeley, of Beckenham. Kent, this 15-year-old plant, which scoeped the Len Page trophy, has over 70 yellowy green flowers and buds and a

leaf span of two feet. The show, in the New Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, is open today from lOam to 5pm.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr Fl. Adlington and Miss K. Hopkirk The engagement is announced between Hugh younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Adlington, of Wheatley, Hampshire, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Paddy Hopkirk, of Penn, Buckinghamshire.

Mr H.J. Dickerson and Miss R.F. Stuart-Paul The engagement is announced between Hugh, eldest son of Mrand Mrs P.J. Dickerson, of Sevenouks, Kent. and Rowers. only daughter of Air Marshal Sir Ronald and Lady Stuart-Paul, of Gaunts Common, Dorset

Mr A.A. Forsyth and Miss S.K. Ellor The engagement is announced between Angus Alpin, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Forsyth, of Ballathie, Perthshire, and Sally Katharine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Eliot, of Little Renby, Boars Head, East Sussex. Lientenaut S.B. George, RE, and 2nd Lientenaut R.L. Clarke The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher George, of Felsted, Essex, and Rachel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Clarke,

of Fulwood, Sheffield. Mr D.E. Gill ınd Miss J. Green The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs R.E. Gill, of Parsons' Green.

London, and Judith, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Green, of Taunton, Somerset. Mr CA.H. Grav and Miss F.D. Petre The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr

and Mrs Hugh Gray, of Hindhead, Surrey, and Fenella, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Petre of Turrworth, Hampshire. Mr P.E. Harrison and Miss C.L. Robertson

The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Dr Donald and the Rev Margaret Harrison, of Willoughby, Lincotnshire, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Robertson, of Chalford St Giles, Buckingharushire.

and Dr I.S. Jones The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr Nicholas Lewis and Mrs Jane Durham, and Ingrid, daughter of

Dr and Mrs Alun knies, of Woking, Surrey Mr R.N. Oldershaw and Miss C.J. Hissey The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Oldershaw, of

Wadhurst, Sussex, and Tina, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Hissey, of Sevenoaks, Kent Mr J.R. Prentis and Miss M.C. Zimmerman

and MISS IN CHAIRCE MAIN
The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Mr and Mrs Brian Prentis, of East-bourne, East Sussex, and Melissa, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Timmerman of Names Robert Zimmerman, of Naples, Florida. Earl of Rogaldshar

and Miss H.A. Hoffman and Miss H.A. Houseau
The engagement is announced
between Robin, elder son of the
Marquess and Marchioness of
Zetland, and Heather, elder
daughter of Mr Robert Hoffman
and Mrs Richard Cazenove.

Mr S.J. Varghese and Miss R.A. Thomas The engagement is announced between Shiju. son of Mr and Mrs. J.V. Varghese, of Kerala, India, and Reena, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Thomas, of

Whitton, Middlesex. Mr M.J. Young The engagement is announced between Marthew only son of Mr and Mrs Phillip Young, of Bed-ford, and Silvia, only daughter of Mrs Angela Delucchi and Mr Andrea Dellapiane, of Nervi, Italy.

Marriage

Commodore D.J. Ellin. RN. and Mrs C.M.V. Fisher The marriage took place on Sai urday. November 23, at St Mi-chael's and All Angels, Ballintuim, Perthshire, of Commodore Dun-can Elfin, OBE, Royal Navy, to

University news

Oxford Somerville College The following elections have been To a Beilby Scholarship in R E Paget (formerly of Lewis Girls' School, Mid Glamorgan). To a Beilby Scholarship in

J P Lovell (Hall Cross Comprehensive School, Doncaster). To a Bull Scholarship in

Jurisprudence: R A Stock (Island School, Hong Kong). To a Coombs Scholarship in Philosophy, Politics & Economics: S R Hooker (Queen Mary's Cell-

To a Hughes Scholarship in E J Wright (Malthy Comprehensive School, Rotherham). To a Hughes Scholarship in

R J Brown (International School of To a Murray Scholarship in Mathematics: J C Coats (St Aidan's & St John Pisher's Sixth Form, Harrogate).

To a Nuffield Scholarship in Medicine: Z W Grozeva (St Benedict's School, London). To a Pope Scholarship in English

and Modern Languages: H L Bailey (Colchester High School for Girls). To a Bull Exhibition in Literae A B Comery (Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, London). To a Coorabs Exhibition in Chemistry: R P Malde (Haberdashers' Aske's

School for Girls, Hertfordshire). To a Coombs Exhibition in Physics: R J Ablewhite (Downham Market Sixth Form Centre, Norfolk). To a Nuffield Exhibition in Physio logical Sciences: S J Campbell (St Bernard's Con-

vent Grammar School, Berkshire).

The following have been elected to the Governing Body of St Antony's College: Michael Vaillancourt Aris, Senior Research Fellowship in Tibetan and Himalayan Studies for five

St Antony's College

Carol Scott Leonard, from January I, 1997, for five years co-terminus with University Lectureship in Regional Studies in Post-Com-

Linacre College Elections

To an Official Fellowship from October 1, 1996: Christopher Chap-

Cambridge Professor Jim Mirrlees of Cam-

bridge University has won the 1996 Nobel prize for Economics. Professor Mirrless and Professor William Vickrey of Columbia University, New York, have been awarded the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel, 1996. Queens' College

Mr Murray J. Milgate has been elected to an Official Fellowship at Queens' College, from October 1.

Gregory D. Hess has been been elected to a fellowship and ap-pointed lecturer in Economics at St John's College from October 1.

Edinburgh, in succession to Mr Herrick Bunney who is retiring.

TRADE: 0171 481 1982

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as pa-tron, will present the annual British Athletic Federation awards at Buckingham Place at 10.00; as patron and trustee, will attend eceptions at St James's Palace at ((.30 and 4.00 for young peo who have achieved the gold stan-dard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award; and will give a luncheon and preside at a meeting of the Trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham ice at 12.30. Later, as Honorary Member of the Smeatonian Society of Civil Engineers, will attend a linner at the Institution of Civil

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will visit the Royal Smithfield show at Earls Court at

The Princess Royal, will visit Cookridge Hospital, Hospital Lane, Leeds, at 11.10; as Patron of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, will visit the

bureau at 17 Canal Road Bradford. at 12.05; as Patron of Sense - the National Deafblind and Rubella Association, will visit a unit for deafblind pupils at Thorn Park School, Thorn Lane, and will deliver the opening ad-dress at the Health Visitors' Association's conference at the Harrogate International Centre, at

The Duke of Kent, as president will attend the exhibition Conflicts since 1945 at the Imperial War Museum at IL30.

Princess Alexandra will open the Anchor Centre, Paisley, at 3.00: and, as President of Sight Savers International (Royal Common-wealth Society for the Blind), will attend a dinner given by the society and the Pakistan Association of Edinburgh and East of Scotland a Highland Centre, Ingliston, Edin

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Anders Celsius, astronomer, inventor of the thermometer, Uppsala, Sweden, 1701; John Murray, publisher, London, 1778: Fanny Kemble, actress, London, 1809: Chaim Weizmann, biochemist, 1st President of Israel 1949-52, Motol, Belarus, 1874; Jimi Hendrix, rock guitarist, Seattle, Washington, 1942. DEATHS: Horace, Quintus Hora-

trus Flaccus, Roman poet, 8 BC; Andrew Meikle, agricultural en-gineer. Dunbar. 1811; Alexander Dumas the Younger, dramatist and poet, Paris, 1895; Tom Walls actor-producer. Ewell, Surrey, 1949; Eugene O'Neill, dramatist. Nobel laureate 1936, Boston Massachusetts, 1953. William Shakespeare Anne Hathaway, 1582.

Birthdays today

Mr John Alderton, actor, 56; Dr John Ashworth, chairman, British Library, 58; Mr Rodney Bewes, actor, 59; Lord Bridges, 69; the Rev Dr Edward Carpenter, KCVO, former Dean of Westminster. 86; the Earl of Cottenham, 48; Mr Gavyn Davies, economist, 46, Mr Air Marshal Sir Eric Dunn, 69; Mr James Evans, former chairman, International Thomson Org-anisation, 64; Lord Howard de Walden, 84; Dr Kim Howells, MP. 50; Miss Verity Lambert, film and television producer, 61; the Marquess of Lansdowne, 84; Sir John Maddox, former Editor, Nature, 71; Baroness Mallalieu, QC, 51; Lord Nickson, 67; Mrs Margaret Parry. former Headmistress, Heathfield School, Ascot, 77; Mr Alan Simpson, scriptwriger, 67; Mr Ernie Wise, cornedian, 71.

Private view

National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron of NADFAS, was present at the Association's Private View of the Mysteries of Ancient China ex-hibition held at the British Mu-

Haberdashers

The following have been installed officers of the Haberdashers' Company for the ensuing year: Master. Dr C.J.T. Bateman: War-dens, Mr N.K.S. Wills, Mr M.D.G. Wheldon, Mr P.E. Davidson. Mr

Service dinners

RASC and RCT afterwards. Mr Richard Nichol-Major-General Martin S. White, Director-General Logistic Support (Army), was the guest of honour at a luncheon given by Members and Committee of the Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Corps of

Transport Officers Luncheon Club

held yesterday at Mark Masons Hall, St James's. Brigadier D.N. Locke, chairman of the club,

The French Ambassador was the guest of honour at a dinner of the Royal Air Force Club Dining Society held last night at the club. Wing Commander W.A. Beaumont, president, was in the chair. Air Chief Marshal Sir Lewis Hodges and Air Commodore G.J.B. Claridge also spoke.

Dinners

Farmers Club The Princess Royal was a speaker at a dinner given by the Farmers Club held last night at the London Hilton on Park Lane to mark the 154th anniversary of the founding of the club. Mr Peter Jackson presided. Mr Cliff Morgan also spoke.

Distillers' Company
The High Commissioner for Canada was granted the Freedom of the Distillers' Company at an installation court meeting held yesterday at Vintners' Hall. The Master, Mr Anthony W.C. Ed-

son, Renter Warden, and Mr N.L.J. Montagu also spoke. The Masters of the Vintners' and Upholders' Companies and the Grand Master of the Keepers of the Quaich were among the

Receptions **Institute of Sports Medicine**

Sir Rodney Sweetnam, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, presented the Robert Atkins Award to Dr John Lloyd Parry at the annual presentat Parry at the annual presentation ceremony and reception of the Institute of Sports Medicine held last night at Burlington House. Mr Michael Edgar, Dr Christopher Jarvis, Mr Nigel Tubbs and Dr M.S. Irani, who also spoke, received certificates of fellowship. Sir Victor Goodhew, chairman, pre-

The President of Westminster Examinations plc, the Right Hon the Earl of Kintore, was the host at a reception held at the company's new international headquarters at 20 Bloomsbury Square. Among

Westminster Examinations pic

The Right Hon the Earl of Dundee, Ms Motra Simpson (Principal of Oak House College), Mrs June Carer (Director of Westminster Examinations pic), Mr David de Mesquita (Principal of Mid Kent College), Mr Gavin Ross (Vice Principal of the Robert Gordons University), Mr Derek Hammond-Giles, Mr Robert Webb and Mr Garry Carrer (Chief Executive of Westminster Examinations pk).

Luncheons HM Government

Mr Malcolm Rifland, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at I Carlton Gardens in honour the Foreign Minister of

British Red Cross Mrs William Crowe was the host at a luncheon of the British Red Cross held yesterday at Winfield House, Regent's Park, Mrs Elspeth Thomas, chairman, Mr John F. Gray, director of publicaffairs, and Mrs Maria Shammas, chairman of the international fundraising committee, were the speakers. A fashion show was held afterwards.

Distillers' Company The following have been installed officers of the Distillers' Company

for the ensuing year: Master, Mr Anthony W.C. Edwards: Mr Christopher Mitchell, Upper Warden: Mr Ian Coombs, Middle Warden: Mr Richard Nicholson, Renter Warden.

Lincoln's Inn

Mr Richard George McCombe, QC, and Mr Registrar Martin Christopher Burton Buckley have been elected Benchers of Lincoln's

To an Honorary Fellowship from October 1, 1996: Sir Bryan Carriedge, principal of the college

man. University Lecturer in Management Studies (Accounting)

St John's College

Selwyn College Elected into a Fellowship: Graham Peter Cook

Napier University Mr Michael Harris, Assistant Organist at Canaerbury Cathedral, has been appointed Master of the Music at St Giles' Cathedral,

BMDS: 0171 680 6880

PERSONAL COLUMN

PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000 God, he exalted above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth. Sawe with your sight hand and respond, that those dear to you may be delivered. Psalm 108: 5,6 BIRTHS

BATHER - On 23rd November 1996, to Arabelia (née Plumbet) and Richard, a son,

BRESI - On November 23rd, to Bebecca (née Dores) and Jason, a son, Jasper Cariton. CLAYTON - On November 25th at The Fortland Hospital, to Sonja and Ted, a Jovely daughter, Sarah, a sister for Patrick and Andrew.

CLEMENT - On 23rd November 1976, to Charlotte (note Chesworth) and Reserved, 2

ter for Theo and Pho

- rent - On 20th November, to Anthes (née Dobry) and Stephen, a son, Adam George Ducheme

AMHESOM - On 24th November, to Emily (née Bobars) and Andrew, a son, Guy Michael Auldjo, a harther for Jack and Hennor.

24th 1996, to Maxim Michael, a son, Jock Wi

BIRTHS

Average - On November 20th at St Mary's Hospital, London, to Sen Powell and Hannah Haywood, a Son, Oscar Hogo, a brother for Dominic and Benedict, Grateful thanks to all

USSELL/KEATING - On 17th November at home, Caroline and Roly, daughter, Flota, a sister ! Horace.

PRAGUE - On November 21st at The Purthand Hospital, to Christina and William, a

DEATHS HELH - Anthony John (Tony) of South Kilworth, Leicestershire, died on November 22nd 1996 after a short illness faced with

short illness faced with gent courage. Sady missed by Colin and his many friends. Funeral Service: Friday November 29th 2 ym, St Nicholas Church, South Kilworth. Flowert or dosettons to USPG or Cancer Relief Macmillan Punt to J. Stamp & Sons, Funeral Directors, Market Harborough, Leics. LEI6 8AN, (01858) 462524. BODENHAM - Denis on November 22nd in Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, aged 81. Much loved husband of the

much loved hustrand of the late Judith and then Anne, father of Richard and James and the late Christopher, and the late Christopher, father-in-law of Funces and fill, gamfather of Matthew, Alexander, Sophie and Alice Cremation on Thursday November 28th 4 pm at Canford Crematorium, Brissol. Friends will be welcome. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life will be held late. Pandly flowers only. Donations if which to SCARF, Franchay, Hospital, Frenchay, Rristol, SSI6 11.E.

SSIO LLE
BUTLER - Peacefully on
November 25th 1996, Laura
Eachel Mary (née Wash),
daughter of the late Sir
Vincent and Lady Nash of
County Limerick and
beloved wife of the late
Theobald Pitrwalter Butler.
Foncial Misss at 11.30 am on
Monday December 2nd at
The Chapel of St Sephael's
Nursing Home, Danehill,
Sussex, followed by boxial at
Western Road Cemetery.
Haywards Heath, Sussex.
Flowers and semuries to RA
Rooks & Son, 36 Wavelstick
Road, Haywards Heath, tek
(01444) 454391.

of the parentess games and Mrt Deas of Edinburgh, much loved wife of Dick for 62 years and mother of Jin, mother-in-law of Janet and grandmother of Henry, Richard and Isobel. GAGE HARDY - Elizabeth (Liz.) died 26th November in Sydney, Australia, aged 71, victim of cancer, Beloved sister of Toots' Williams,

HAY DRUMMOND - Robert Vane, beloved husband of Auxioi, on November 23xd after a painful illness counsgeously bone. At his request no memorial service. Fungal at 31 May's Church Aldworth on Wednesday December 4th at noon. Family flowers only to Camp Hopson, Newbury. Donations, if desired, to Duchess of Kent Macmillan Unit, Liebenrood Road, Reading, EG30 2011.

leaving a lot of friends

HOLLAND - Philip John Emplace, on 24th Rovember 1996, in his Soth year, loving and much loved husband of Frome, will be sadly missed by his sitter Feggy, family and friends.

MACKAY - On November 24th
Margaret died very
peacefully at home aged 70,
dently loved wife of John,
much loved mother of
William, Etspeth, Many and
Andrew, beloved
grandmother of Elizabeth
Alison, Michael and Isabel,
much loved sister of
Elizabeth Ogilvis and
mother-in-law of Chris. Elizabeth Ogilvis and mother-in-law of Chris, Edward and Margaret. Funeral at \$t Margaret. Funeral at \$t Margaret. Funeral at \$t Margaret. Funeral at \$t Margaret. Puneral at \$t Margaret. Funeral at \$t Margaret. Funeral at \$t Margaret. Funeral protection, Family Howers and Douries & Funeral at \$t Davies & Son, 381 Gloucester Boad, Horfield, Existel BS7 81%.

MADGE: On 22nd November

Reistol RS7 STR.

MADGE - On 22nd November
1996 at Heavierse Hospital,
filchard, aged 31 years,
former England Rugby
International. Beloved
husband of the late Jean,
loving father of Jennifer,
John and Brenda, fond
gamded and gene yamded.
Private cremation. Service of
Thanksgiving, Thursday
28th November, 12 noon,
Alphington Church, Engler
Family Jowers only. Alphington Church, Easter Family flowers only. Donations if desired to British Heart Foundation of P Turl, 16 Victoria Road, Topsham, Easter £13 OBU.

Topsham, Raster ECS ORC.
MERKLE - On November 25th
Bichard Reart, son of the
late Mr & Miss W.E. Melkle
and brother of the Inte Alan
Melkle. No flowers pinase.
Funeral Service at St
Michael and All Angels
Church,
Rothumberland, on Friday,
November 29th at 1.45 pm.
PAYEL - Enoughai, husband of
AYEL - Enoughai, husband of PATEL - Kamenhari, toushand of Uma, father of Samir and Sanjiv, died peacefully at Harefield Hospital, on November 23rd 1996. Donations to a Dharmaj Charity.

QAKLEY - Robert Preips died 23rd November, peacefully at home, aged 103. Sametime cont. Berchant and genetive corn merchant and greet beloved father, grandfath and great grandfather, uncle and friend. Funeral Service at 12 noon on Monday 2nd December at All Saints, December at All Saints, Branksome Park, Poole, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only but donastions, if desired to ENLL, c/o K. Mew & Ca., 3 Bournemouth Ecod. Lower Parkstone, Poole, tel: (01202) 741169.

POTT - Christopher Dutton died en November 20th 1996, loving husband of Exis and devoted father of Alexander and Robert. Franch, will take place on Thursday December 5th 12-noom, et St. Ann's Church, E.M. Naval Base, Portsmouth. Family (lowers only, Dountloon if theired to D.M. Naval Date,
Portsmouth Family flowers
only. Donations if desired to
The Prince of Wales Trust
Fund, theques made populate
to The Prince of Wales Trust
Fund c/o John Duming, Cooperative Fameral Directors,
187 Fratton Road,
Datesmouth POL 578 temouth, POI 5ER.

STEVENSOR - Arthur John, father of William, Hugh and Tom, peacefully on 24th November, aged 88. Framenion Monday 2nd December at 12 noon at St Peter's Church, Black Lion Lage, Hammersunth, W6. WHIGHT - On November 25th in France, L'Abbé Quinth Montgomery, agod 82. Pries of Le Chambler, Normandy

of Le Chambbic, Nonnandy, for over 40 years and Chaplain to the Order of St. Lazimas of pressions. Such loved and admired by his family and friends. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated later in London, details to be announced. EIP. MEMORIAL SERVICES

DEAME - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Raymoud Desue will be held a Winchester Cathedral on Thursday November 28th 1996 at 230 pm.

Will be celebrated for will be Calebrated for I Comte Jacques Prédéri Pillet-Will in the Littl Brompton, Brompto Cratory, London SW7 2EF: 12 noon on Thursday 5t December 1996.

IN MEMORIAM -PRIVATE

WANTED PRE 1940's clothes, lines, lace fans, patchwork, quilty embrideries, exemples inns, patchwork, quilts, ambuticales, samplers, shawls, otional textiles, contains jewellery 0271 229 9618 TICKETS FOR SALE

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SURSET, LES MS. 0171 323 4480 SPORTS TICKET SPECIALISTS

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ditioned, with the second seco GIVE YOUR LIFE A LIFT

PECHNI - On Sundry November 3rd at Chase Farm Hospital, to Shanon (non Murphy) and Store, a son, Patrick Joseph. PULVERTAFT - On November 22nd 1996, to Sally and Rupert, a see, Jonathon James David.

LEE - (in 24th Rovember at Bayview Hospital, Barbados, to Joseph and Lakmini (née Buluwela), a son, George **DEATHS** MARTELL - Oz 16th November 1996, to Jame (née King) and Robert, a deughter, Katherine Augusta, a sister for Fibsabeth, Carpline and

MICHAEL BENNETT

after many years of sufficiency, before many years of sufficiency, before with great courage and good humour, Anka Grethe, aged 76, deanly beloved wife of lan. Private family funeral at Much Hadham. Donations, if wished, to Crussmoads of D. Rohinson & Sons Ltd. 79 South Street, Bishops Suntfout, Hests.

LIPMANN - Bruno Arthur Ludwig, After a long Obsess, died 24th November 1996, in Melbourite, Australia, aged 77. Mach missed by all the family.

SMALLSHAW Bilton Manning on November 24th 1996 aged 91 years, peacefully at the Radbrook Nursing Bonne, Shriwsbury, Funeral Service at Shriwsbury Counstituium on Thursday December 12th at 240 ps. Enquides pleese to Funeral Directors W.R.E. Pugh & Son, tel: (01743) 344646.

SWAM - Peter, died 27th November 1995, Greatly missed by all his family. Whate In everlowing memory of my dear Sister Betty who full aslesp 27/11/91 and all my family. Stoneford Cottage.

Planeton, Saigne, Susset, O Top for Sport Tichnes O 0171 247 4123 ALL SHOWS you a sport cheep est in London book new fan 97 all tickets 820 0171 240 3990

OBITUARIES

SIR HAVELOCK HUDSON

Sir Havelock Hadson, former chairman of Lloyd's of London, died on November 14 aged 77. He was born on January 4, 1919.

s chairman of Lloyd's from 1975 to 1977, Havelock Hudson presided over a period of ... ontimism and relative tranquility in London's turbulent insurance market. Applications for membership of Lloyd's reached unprecedented levels during those years. and the consequent expansion was greeted with relief in an institution still reeling from a run of bad losses in the 1960s. In retrospect, however, that influx of new "names" and the changes that came with it - some of style, some of substance - may be seen to have made more likely the scandals and disasters that Lloyd's was to suffer in

later years.
To "Hal" Hudson those disasters would come both as a disappointment: and a surprise. He was the son of an underwriting family and, though he had initially been reluctant to enter the family business, his chairmanship crowned a Lloyd's career that stretched hack to the Second World War.

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Throughout that time he saw no reason to doubt the integrity of the institution with which he had grown up. When Lloyd's awarded him its Gold Medal in 1977 for his "outstanding services", he responded by suggesting that Lloyd's had kept "its unrivalled position in the world ... because of its honour". Honour, he admitted, was perhaps an old-fash-ioned word, but he was sure that he was speaking to people who still know what it means. That confidence would be tested before he died.

Havelock Henry Trevor Hudson was educated at Rugby, where he was captain of running. On leaving school, rather than join the family syndicate of marine underwriters, Hudson & Vernon, he planned to become a doctor, but his medical studies were cut short by an accident suffered while demonstrating fencing skills in a laboratory at the Middlesex Hospital.

He decided instead to cultivate his interest in literature, even if it meant being a journalist at first. That, however, was his father's idea of "a living hell*, had Hudson Senior ever suggested such a thing when he was young, then "his father would have sent him round the world before the mast". Forty-eight hours later Havelock had enlisted on a British cargo ship, the Silver Teak, and was working his passage round the world. He was to describe his time at sea as "the most

enjoyable years of my life". When war broke out Hudson was rather reluctantly conscripted as a private in the Royal Hampshire Regi-ment. He later described himself as



soldiering came to seem frightfully interesting". Nor did it stiffe his love of letters. Sent for officer training, he found himself a member of an active literary group, running a magazine with Enoch Powell as editor. He went on to become a committed and able officer, his military career ending in 1944 when, as adjutant to the 9th Parachute Battalion, he was badly wounded in the sacking of the heavy German battery at Merville during the

Normandy landings.

After the war, married to a brigadier's daughter and with two young children to support, he abandoned his literary ambitions and took over his father's "box" in The Room at Lloyd's. He became an underwriting member (a "working name") in 1952, and was elected to the Lloyd's Committee for the first time in 1965. In 1968, 1971 and 1973 he served as deputy chairman, before succeeding Paul Dixey as chairman in

of the composite insurers who had been tempted into the specialised marine and aviation fields by the cashflow benefits of investing premiums in the money markets at a time when rates were high. As chairman of Lloyd's during a period of high taxation and a wavering pound. Hudson saw a steady growth in applications from would-be members. Throughout the 1960s the number of 'names" had remained steady at about 6.000: by 1977 there were 10.500. Even so, Hudson emphasised that the volume of business should be limited by the reserves available. Most of his numerous foreign trips as chairman were intended not to drum up business but to explain why Lloyd's was turning it down.

An effective ambassador for Lloyd's abroad (in one three-week North American trip he covered 14,000 miles, submitting to dozens of speaking engagements and interviews), he was outspoken in its defence at home. "It is ludicrous," he complained, "that a global organisation that has helped to keep this ruddy country going for years should be denigrated."

have caused £100 million of damage in

a single night, half of it insured in

London; but they also, he felt, marked

the beginning of the end for cut-throat

competition over premiums and

helped to drive from the market some

His views on more general topics were expressed with equal vigour. Speaking at St Lawrence Jewry on the subject of "social responsibility", he blamed what he saw as "the collapse of national morale" on "the collapse of national morality". Lloyd's could show the way forward, he said, for it "is devoted to the concept of individual responsibility, to the exercise of initiative, to the ability to make up one's own mind and having the guts to back one's

Such faith in the social and moral efficacy of the free market was perhaps hardly surprising in a lifelong City man. But Hudson was also, in the words of one of his more unlikely admirers, the poet Ted Hughes, "one of those forceful, intelligent people who can live in several worlds simultaneously". For more than a decade he was a dedicated chairman of the Arvon foundation, which helps young writers; and he relished his hands-on involvement in the running of his own estate in Berkshire.

After his retirement as chairman, he remained active at Lloyd's until illhealth and underwriting losses persuaded him to resign his membership in 1988. He had been knighted for his vices to export in 1977.

He was twice married. His second wife, Cathleen, daughter of the 6th Earl of St Germans, died in 1994. He is ived by two sons from his having been "basically a pacifist" at The period leading up to Hudson's 1960s, as "a blessing in disguise" the marriage, which was dissolved in 1956, as "a blessing in disguise" the terrible storms that swept through the proper one. In the end, however, for Lloyd's in an institution where southern United States in 1965 may stepdaughter from his second.

ELIZABETH KNIGHTS

Elizabeth Knights. publisher, died from lung cancer on November 14 iged 41. She was born in Kent on September 16,

ALTHOUGH only 41 when she died, Liz Knights had time to make a notable career at the head of the publishing firm of Victor Gollancz. Her long and grave illness, unsuspected by those who were not close to her, never diminished her enthusiastic dedication to her work, her energy, or her exceptional clarity of mind.

Growing up in suburban Kent, Elizabeth Anne Knights was head girl of Alleyn's School and took a degree in history and politics at York University. Her left-wing opinions were clear and decided, but tinged by a characteristic shrewd scepticism.

It used to be a cliché in higher education that all bright girls wanted to get into publishing. Few achieved the ambition, but Liz Knights did. Soon she was at the leading firm of Jonathan Cape as secretary to the chairman Tom Maschler, who was said to eat secretaries for breakfast and certainly chose them carefully. By 1981 she was publicity manager at Gollancz, and in 1984 she became an editor, the line of work that was always

nearest to her heart. There had been only two people at the head of Gollancz since its foundation in the 1920s: the legendary VG himself and his equally formidable daughter, Livia. Somewhat in decline since its great days, the firm was struggling in the new climate of mergers and conglomerates. Its future depended on a loyal and talented team, among whom Knights was outstanding. Heading the paperback division from 1987, she became editorial director - or "the publisher", as they like to sav at Gollancz - two years later. In 1990 it could be said that fortune was smiling on Liz

Knights. Still in her thirties,

Rear-Admiral James

Ross, CB, DSC, Assistant

Chief of Naval Staff, 1960-

63, died on October 27

October 31, 1908.

DESCENDED from the po-

lar explorers, Sir John Ross and Sir James Clark Ross,

James Ross was the author of

two scholarly books which celebrate their discoveries.

The first, Ross in the Antarctic

1839-1843, deals with the first

systematic exploration of the

Antarctic in the ships Erebus

and Terror by his great grand-

father, James Clark Ross, a

man whom Amundsen des-

cribed as "the most intrepid

polar explorer and one of the

most capable seamen the

world has ever produced". A

second magisterial work. Po-

lar Pioneers, published as

recently as 1994, deals with the

lives of both James Clark and

his uncle John, who in 1817

commanded the first Admiral-

ty-inspired expedition to find

James Ross was educated at

Charterhouse and at Dart-

mouth Naval College. His first

seagoing appointment, on

graduating in 1927, was to the

training ship of the day. coincidentally called Erebus.

Subsequent postings included

the China station in the cruis-

er Suffolk and the Mediterra-

nean in the battleship Resolution. Qualifying as a

gunnery specialist in 1934, he

served in the battleship Re-

nown before being selected on the basis of his intellect for the

advanced gunnery course. War broke out while he was

overseeing the building of the

Tribal class destroyer Tartar

at Swan Hunter's yard on

Typeside, so he was swiftly reappointed to a sister-ship.

the Somali, as squadron gun-

Somali and her destroyer

nery officer.

the North-West Passage.

she had a job that would normally go to an older person: she was now happily married to Ian Craig, a designer who also worked in publishing; she had a host of friends and (quite a distinction in the publishing world) no enemies. But then lung cancer was diagnosed. Her reaction was to work as hard as ever,

and very successfully. For a publisher, the indispensable quality is flair. Vital,



100, is the courage to defy cautious counsels and conventional assumptions. Knights showed both qualities in 1992 when she published Fever Pitch, the first book by a relatively unknown writer. Nick Hornby. It might be thought obvious that football fans and book-readers are mutually exclusive categories. It was by no means obvious to Knights, however, and somehow Fever Pitch sold 400,000 copies. One must of course give credit to Hornby's writing, but also to Knights who put her faith in the book. edited it, and contributed two very important words - the

When commissioning, decision-making and the chores of management (not to mention fighting cancer) might have absorbed all her energies, she continued to edit books on the Gollancz list. including Mervyn Jones's biography of

REAR-ADMIRAL JAMES ROSS

Michael Foot. Most writers regard most editors as antagonists, whose damage to the text must be kept to a minimum, but with Knights the obligatory "gratitude to my editor" was genuine. No one could fail to respect her almost infallible judgement, her fine taste in the use of the English language, and her sharp eye for any clumsy phrase that fails to express what the writer meant to say.

During the 1990s, control of Gollancz was acquired first by the American firm o Houghton Mifflin and then by Cassell. The second upheaval required a move from the much-loved old building in Covent Garden to the sort of airport lounge that big companies prefer. On these occasions, assurances of full editorial independence" are always heard, and generally mean as much as the independence of a republic in the old Soviet Union. It was largely thanks to Knights that Ğollancz did preserve as much of its character and as much decision-making capacity as, in the nature of things, was possible.

Meanwhile, she endured repeated courses of chemotherapy. Her natural enjoyment of life and her deep commitment to her work made these interruptions hard to bear. As she surmounted one crisis after another. friends tried to believe that her courage and her resolute will to live would enable her to chalk up another triumph. She was seen at her desk until three weeks before the end.

A woman of great charm and attractiveness. Liz Knights was loved as much as she was admired. Had she lived and worked through all the years she had a right to expect, an obituarist 30 or 40 years from now might be writing that she was revered. What is certain is that she will not be forgotten.

She is survived by her husband, two stepsons and a stepdaughter.

EUGENE POLYAKOV

Eugene Polyakóv, ballet master at the Paris committed suicide on October 25 aged 53. He was born in Moscow on April 27, 1943,

EUGENE POLYAKOV was first brought to the Paris Opera in 1983 by its newly appointed director Rudolf Nureyev. During nearly ten years as ballet master there, he saw the company grow greatly in reputation: it now ranks alongside the Kirov and the New York City Ballet as one of the finest in the world.

Polyakov played a central role in the running of the company, conducting rehears-als and helping with casting, teaching and coaching. All the while he made daily reports to Nureyev, even when the great dancer was abroad. But de-

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spite his responsibilities, he was always available to help the dancers, whether with personal or professional problems.

Eugene Polyakov studied at the Bolshoi Ballet School from the age of ten. On graduation. however, he was sent to Siberia to join the ballet company which had been formed at Novosibirsk after the war and whose standards were being raised at that time by the drafting in of new dancers and directors from Moscow and Leningrad.

The Novosibirsk Ballet made its first tours to Moscow and to Paris for the Festival du Marais in 1967. By then Polyakov, at only 24, was one of the leading dancers, dancing Bluebird in The Sleeping Beauty and the Prince in the young Oleg Vinogradov's



highly original staging of Cinderella. In Novosibirsk he also undertook his first choreography, starting with Benjamin Britten's Variations on a Theme of Purcell and Men-

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Will you rise to the

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND DEPCTO FORTLAND PLACE, LONDON WIN 4AR.

delssohn's Songs Without and, impressed by his young

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until three years later, some of the

heavy losses of the 1960s were still

being felt. At the same time, the pre-

eminence of the venerable London

market was being challenged by aggressive new foreign competitors.

Dixey and Sir Henry Mance, Hudson

accepted that Lloyd's had to compete

but insisted that it must do so without

compromising the security to which it

owed its reputation. He was a strong

supporter of 1960s' proposals to expand

Lloyd's by admitting foreigners and women; he also backed the creation of

a new category of "mini-names", who

would need to show assets of only

£37,500, rather than the usual £75,000.

and be able to write a reduced amount

But Hudson was convinced that bad

business was never worth pursuing. He regarded Hurricane Betsy, the greatest disaster to hit Lloyd's in the

Like his predecessors as chairman,

In 1970 he returned to Moscow as a teacher at the Bolshoi but six years later he left Russia for Italy, where he took a post in Venice as ballet master at La Fenice. There he created the ballet Francesca da Rimini and mounted Giselle in which the Italian ballerina Elisabetta Terabust was partnered by Nureyev.

After a year Polyakov formed a new company, Viva la Danza, but shortly afterwards, in 1978, accepted an invitation to direct the ballet at the Teatro Comunale. Florence. During five years there, he made several more new works, including Stravinsky's Baiser de la Fée and Rossignol.

Nureyev danced in Florence as a guest during this time

compatriot's skill, invited him to the Paris Opera as ballet master in 1983. They formed an impressive working part-nership, but even when Nureyev's contract ended in 1989. Polyakov and Patrice Bart (a former dancer with whom he shared his responsibilities at that time) continued to act as

In 1992 Polyakov returned to Florence. His resumed directorship there brought his own productions of several classics. plus creations of La Dame aux Camélias, La Ronde and other works.

caretaker directors of the bal-

let for a year.

Additionally, Polyakov was one of the people to whose scrupulous care Nureyev entrusted revivals of his classic productions. This work was to take him as far afield as China and Australia, as well as to Berlin, Milan and Vienna. London saw the excellence of his results when the Royal Swedish Ballet brought Don Quixote to the Coliseum last

Although earlier this year Polyakov returned to Paris to work again as ballet master with the company he knew so well, in latter months an uncharacteristic mood of depression overcame him, and eventually he took his own life. The Paris Opera dedicated its performance on October 25 to his memory.

RAID ON A CLUB

SERIOUS CHARGES AT BOW STREET

Two women and 35 men appeared on remand before Mr. Dummen at Bow Street Police Court

yesterday to answer charges arising out of a mid on Billie's Club. Little Denmark Street, WC2. Miss Billie Joyce, 31. said to be the pro-prictress, was charged on a warrant with keeping

and maintaining the club as a disorderly house, "wherein she did cause and procure and permit to

assemble and remain on the said premises immoral level and disorderly persons using obscene language and behaving in a level, obscene and disorderly manner to the manifest

corruption of the morals of his Majesty's liege

The other 36 defendants, including musicia

employees of the club, a soldier, and a film artist. were all accused of aiding and abetting in that

Chief Inspector Donaldson, of Scotland Yard,

gave evidence at the previous hearing of raiding the club. He said that a number of persons were

the club. He said that a number of persons were dancing and others were caressing on series. When the warrant was read to Miss Joyce she said: "They are not all bad. It is a job to control them." Most of the alleged frequenters denied the

charge.

Mr. E. Clayton, prosecuting, said that on the night of the raid, November 14, about 70 persons

were present. Thirty-five were alleged to have taken part in dancing of an improper character. Police officers in plain clothes had kept

He was unmarried.

squadron were in the thick of the Allied landings which tried to counter the German invasion of Norway in the spring of 1940. Massive air attacks caused many casualties. Somali was damaged, but was able, at the end of April when the situation ashore became untenable, to evacuate a complete hattalion from Alesund. Ross was awarded the DSC for his

coolness and gallantry. Two years of innovative work at the experimental section of the gunnery school at Portsmouth were followed by appointment to the cruiser Cleopatra in the Mediterranean. Cleopatra supported with her gunfire most of the operations leading up to the Axis surrender in Tunisia and Operation "Husky", the subsequent invasion of Sicily in July 1943. Towards the end of the campaign, Cleopatra was torpedoed by a U-boat but reached Malta in safety.

Having received early promotion to commander, Ross spent the rest of the war in the ordnance division of the Admiralty. In 1946 he was sent to Hong Kong as the Fleet Gunnery Officer, followed by command of the Black Swan class frigate Hart, again based in Hong Kong.

After promotion to captain in 1951, he was again in the Far East as Chief Staff Officer to the C-in-C Far East Fleet, based at the Singapore naval base HMS Terror. Subsequent tours included the inevitable staffwork in the Admiralty, as well as two years in Washington on the Nato staff. After commanding a frigate squadron from HMS Duncan, he was promoted rear-admiral in 1960. His final posting was Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Warfare) and he retired in 1963; being appoint-

As frequently happens to exservicemen, he found himself a job which made use of his management and organisational skills; he worked as the office manager of an architectural practice until he reached the advanced retirement age of 72 in 1980. Always an enthusiastic gar-

dener. Ross was elected a member of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners and was their Master in 1983. Although the Company of Gardeners rates sixty-sixth in the pecking order of City of London livery companies (the Mercers are first, the Information Technologists one hundredth), their guild is first recorded in 1345. Ross's year is remembered for imaginative extensions of their charitable and horticultural work (among which the flowers in St Paul's Cathedral are notable) and for the quality of the guests at Gardeners' dinners: I feel I have been dining with Debrett" was the comment overheard at one function. His wife Helen McCall,

whom he married in 1946, predeceased him by a month. He is survived by his daughter, a physicist working for the Open University.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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MELITHFRESH RINSE

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ON THIS DAY

November 27, 1936 类型作业

When the proprietress of a London club was charged with keeping a "disorderly house". the prosecuting solicitor stated that the type of dancing which went on was thoroughly disgusting . . . With one exception all the men

were powdered and rouged." observation inside the club on October 31, November 5, 7, 12, and 14. Some of the alleged frequenters were not present on all those dates. If the magistrate thought a case had been made out

against the frequenters he would be asked to commit them for trial on the additional charge of assisting in running a disorderly house on dates when they were present.

Miss Joyce was the registered owner of the club, which was registered in August 1035 to club, which was registered in August, 1935, It cub, which was registered in August, 1935, It consisted of a large dance room, a borroom, and a vestibule. Of the other defendants, Connie Ivy Locke, 40, was the waitress, Guiseppe Carini, 26, was door-keeper, and Charles Kenward. 26, the pianist. Kenward, when playing the piano, would face the dancers and could see what was going on.

On an average about five women were present nightly.

It was quite clear, Mr Clayton went on, that the

It was quite clear, Mr Clayton went on, that the club was a meeting place of a type of moral pervert, who seemed to delight in imitating persons of the opposite sex, not only in dress and speech, but in regard to the use of powder and the carrying of such things as powder puffs and rouge. The type of dancing which went on was thoroughly disgusting With one exception all the men were powdered and rouged.

Detective-screent Murray gave evidence of Detective-sergeant Murray gave evidence of keeping observation inside the club. He said that

he himself was dancing with a woman partner when he overheard one man say to another. "We

are all queer here, you know."

By 10p.m., the witness went on, there were about 80 people in the club. When someone called out, "Come on, girls" two men got up from a settre and danced together exaggeratedly. A woman with an accordion played "All by yourself in the mounlight," and three men joined in the chorus with an obscene parody. A coloured man was among the dancers. Among cabaret turns given from time to time was a dancing display by girls aged from eight to 13. One of these girls mimicked Mae West, but there was nothing

improper in the act.

In cross-examination by Mr. Claude Hornby (solicitor), for Miss Joyce and others, Sergeant Murray agreed that they bore good characters. Cross-examination had not concluded when the hearing was adjourned until Wednesday.

Preview: John Thaw's sleuth is back with a college murder. Inspec. tor Morse (TTV, 8pm). Review

Matthew Bond on a voyeur's guide

Having successfully reduced exper-

tations of tax cuts, Mr Clarke man-

aged to turn a modest Budget into popular package - with only a

Biockade on EMU road

The longer M Chirac insists on

treating EMU in 1999 as France's

rendez-vous with destiny, the hard-

Government's credibility...Page 25

Italian children, who live with the tangible evidence of the Roman

genius all around them, may soon

get a chance to understand the

glories of their pastPage 25

(2**.00**)

The Latin revival

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Modest cuts from cautious Clarke

NEWS

■ Kenneth Clarke cheered the Conservatives with modest tax cuts in a "virtuous" Budget promising steadily rising living standards and trying to ward off interest rate rises. The standard rate of income tax was cut by lp. Cigarettes went up by 15p for 20; petrol by 3p but the duty on beer and wine was unchanged and that on spirits fell 26p a bottle Pages 1, 2, 9-20

Tax and benefit cheats to be chased

■ A programme called "Save to Spend" will crack down on benefit fraud and penalise big businesses for avoiding tax. The cheats who cost the government £7 billion a year Page 9

Air travellers face double duty

■ An extra £325 million a year will be collected from the air passenger duty. Travellers flying within UK and to the Continent will pay £10 instead of £5 and those flying further will pay £20 instead of £10...

Alcoholic 'soft' drinks cost more

The Chancellor responded to concern about the growth in under-age drinking by increasing the tax on alcoholic soft drinks by 7p or 8p a bottle from January

Search for the Budget leak

■ The news that Budget secrets had leaked was broken to Downing Street by Piers Morgan, the Editor of the Daily Mirror, asking: "Do you want your Budget back?". Pages 1, 2

Magnate 'kidnapped'

A Greek shipping magnate was kidnapped by a gang as he parked his car in London and subjected to a nine-day ordeal as his jailers demanded a £5 million ransom, the Old Bailey was ..Page 3

A director of National Grid failed

to keep a proper lookout on his yacht before it rammed a German submarine, causing £20,000 of damage. .Page 3

Yacht hit submarine

Church pensions

Anglican worshippers are to be asked for £27 million a year to pay vicars' pensions under a measure agreed by the General Synod. . Page 4

Medical juggling

Signs of increasing pressure on the NHS emerged in frantic manoeuvring by health authorities and hospitals to balance their books. One authority is planning to cut eight common operationsPage 5 by 40 per cent

Navy favourites

ITV is to use a formula pioneered by BBC Radio in Family Favourites as the centrepiece of its Christmas Day schedule: putting service families in touch over the festive period

French give in

The embattled French Government offered to help meet the demands of striking French lorry drivers as the paralysing nineday dispute spread......Page 8 Refugees found Tens of thousands of Hutu refu-

gees who had been missing for weeks in the jungles of Zaire poured into camps yesterday in Minova, a small lakeside town on the west of Lake Kivu Page 21

Israel tensions rise Tensions between Israel and the Palestine Authority rose as Binyamin Netanyahu made his first visit to a Jewish settlement since becoming Prime Minister and

promised to continue expanding

.... Page 21

the outposts

Learner drivers to have dummy run

Nervous learner drivers are to be offered the chance to sit a mock test with a government examiner to help them to overcome their fears. Learners will pay about £35 for the out a fe It will be followed by a briefing by the examiner on the candidate's strengths and weaknesses.



Robin Fraser, the driver for the group Status Quo, stranded with his lorry at Calais by the French truck drivers' blockade. Page 8

BUSINESS

National Grid: Britain's electricity transmission network, is ready to cut its workforce by 750 or 20 per cent. It blames the regulator for the ..Page 29

Channel tunnel: Eurotunnel's refinancing will be suffer a delay of weeks, or even months, because of the fire last week that closed the rail ...Page 29

Mining: Anglo American, the South African mining giant, is hopeful of striking an agreement with the European Commission over its stake in Lonrho, the hotels to platinum groupPage 29

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 13.8 to 4068.4. Sterling rose from 92.8 to 93.2 after a fall from \$1.6732 to \$1.6728 but a rise from DM2.5419 to DM2_5549_ Page 32

Rugby union: Jonathan Davies will win his 28th cap after being recalled by Wales for the match against Australia. He last playedPage 56 eight years ago

Football: The prospective owners of Nottingham Forest say they will not seek to displace Frank Clark, the manager, as they attempt to avoid relegation... ...Page 56

Motor racing: Alessandro Nannini returned to the wheel of a Formula One car in Portugal, six years after his right arm was severed in a helicopter crashPage 54

Cricket: England arrived in Zimbabwe at the start of their first full tour and found the threatened arrival of the rainy season putting a dampener on the prospects of Page 52

Blast from the past: The Vorticists, with their polemical magazine Blast, tried to change the world of painting in 1914. A major new retrospective reveals how far they succeeded__ _Page 39

Carliele tonight: On a British tour. Belinda Carlisle impressed more when delving into darker material than when offering her customary bright-hued pop songs Page 39. Ripe cherries: With Alec Mc-

Cowen and Penelope Wilton in the leads, the production of The Cherry Orchard now in the West End would make a superlative introduction to Chekhov Page 40 Oh yes it is: The Times publishes

its Great Panto Guide today - a listing of more than 250 Christmas shows

IN THE TIMES

Geoff Brown reviews

I Shot Andy Warhol

(left) and other new

Robyn Davidson on

Cruise O'Brien on

Thomas Jefferson

Wilfred Thesiger, Conor

■ FILMS

releases

■ BOOKS ·

quired to look as if they had bothered; men wanted to look as if they dressed by accident Page 23 Alan Coren on the desire to buy-

everything disease and the one he suffers from - the inability to buy Page 23 anything ...

Golden rule: Putting on the glitz has never been so easy since the

Sherp tongue: President Mandela told black South African journalists not to pander to the white press. They wondered where he got his __Page 38 ideas...

Tricks of the trade: What wiles does a newspaper use in order to poach a rival's readers?....Page 38

Spain: As the Spanish Prime Minister arrives, The Times tooks at an evolving country Pages 42, 43

The French disease is beginning to affect all of Europe. The lorry-drivers' strike has, after a week of protests and closed-down highways, paralysed land transport services from Spain, Britain and Germany. In the circumstances, French President, Jacques Chirac, seems more scandalous with each

SIMON JENKINS Nigelia Lawson: Women were re-

The blood has been spilt, the carpets cleaned and relaid. The Budget merely signifies that the debate ... Page 24 is over ... PETER RIDDELL

The Budget was a bravura Commons performance which should boost Tory morale and the party's short-term standing in the polls, but it is not nearly as virtuous in the long term as Kenneth Clarke daimed .. Page 24

TIM CONGDON

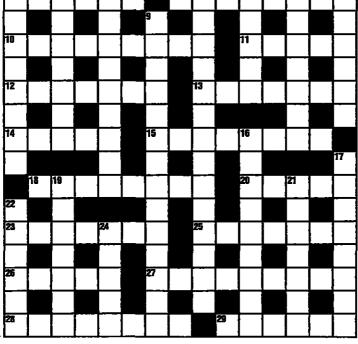
To talk about the British economies prospects in 1997 without recognising the importance of monetary policy could be compared with Hamlet without the Prince. But a better reference would be to Hamlet without the ghost Page 24 **SIMON BARNES**

Tony Adams, with his winning goal for Arsenal against Tottenharn, has become the renaissance man of football

Sir Havelock Hudson, former chairman of Lloyd's; Elizabeth Knights, publisher, Rear-Admiral James Ross, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff, 1960-63 ...

moves to make paracetamol sales? gargoyles; English and French ke-

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,336



ACROSS

1 Snub for enthusiast joining sap-

4 One can't believe it's acting so strangely (8). 10 Popular worker receiving cut as

supplier of dope (9). 11 Officer's insignia soldiers put on drum (5). 12 Assembly accepted key union action to control corporation (7).

13 Basis for new clue used in paperback? (7). 14 Stopped losing head and relaxed

15 Elegant variation for flutes, by Thomas Arne initially (8). 18 Points introduced by Norwegian

play just produced (5-3). 20 Steps taken to locate number on street (5). 23 Shark's tail at angle (7).

25 Extra litre was drunk, following local rules (3-4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,335 NAOSO CONTRICTION S CONTRICTION SMONI
LEDOKTY
AUSO PREJUDICE
LA FPRFCA
LAWMAKER UNSTAL
LA PLA II
CALIPH CLANSMAN
KEER US AI O U N I R TOPSYTURVY 26 Mark made by writer, say, leav ing Scottish island (5).

27 Overworked scribbler rejected payment by Japanese press chief

28 Painting with rollers, possibly (8). 29 Article used in kitchen that sounds more impressive (6).

I Draught animals at the present

time (8). 2 Bumbling old men at the end of the line (7).

3 Bond fired recklessly, contrary to orders (9). 5 Induce a fellow team member to even the score (3,4,3,4). 6 Work on spasmodic twitching of

the eye (5). 7 Picture of meadow exhibited in general bar (7). 8 Purplish colour Eminence put on

after church (6). 9 Taken by surprise when dismissed over article on plant (6.2.3.3).

16 Oriental always eating at the back 17 Champion from South Africa in more natural surroundings (8).

19 First-class drink tipped over finery (7). 21 Research chemist - one producing records, say (7).

22 Orders given by divines, leading pair excluded (6). 24 Old dialect discernible in diction ! classified (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 56



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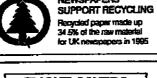
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☐ General: England and Wales will have frost and fog at first. Then it will be generally bright or sunny in central

and southern areas, with coastal sleety showers in the east. Cloud and rain over west Wales and southwest England will slowly edge east as far as Sussex, with snow on hills, Scotland will have patchy fog and

frost at first. Then many areas will be dry, bright or sunny. Wintry showers in east, and on coasts and hills. Cloud then rain later in Hebrides. Northern Ireland will be overcast

and wet, then brighter from west later. □ London, SE, NW, Cent N England, Midlands, Lake District, Glasgow: Patchy frost and fog lifting. Bright with sunny periods, hazy at times. Wind light southeasterly. Cold. Max 5C to 7C (41F to 45F).

☐ E Angila, E, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Bright, sunny intervals and wintry showers, es

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oecially near coast. Wind fresh south-

east. Cold. Max 6C to 7C (43F to 45F). ☐ Cent S, SW England, Wales, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland; Cloudy. Rain, heavy at times, wintry on hills, turning showery later. Wind moderate or fresh southeast. Cold. Max 5C to 7C (41F to 45F).

☐ Channel is: Cloudy. Rain, heavy, at times, turning showery later. Wind moderate or fresh southeast. Cold: Max 7C to 8C (45F to 46F).

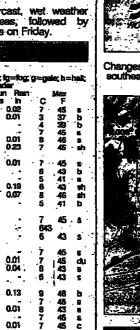
SW, NW Scotland, Argyll: Frost lifting. Becoming cloudy. Rain or sleet in west. Wind moderate southerly. Cold. Max 6C to 7C (43F to 45F).

☐ Cent Highlands: Frost and fog. slow to clear in places. Otherwise bright or sunny, a few wintry showers. Winds light southeast. Cold. Max 0 to 5C (32F to 41F).

Outlook: overcast, wet weather crossing all areas, followed by brighter conditions on Friday.

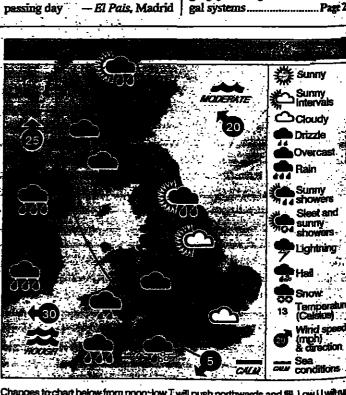
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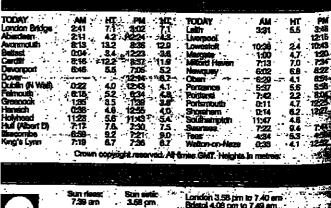
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London 3.58 pm to 7.40 em Bristol 4.08 pm to 7.49 em Edinburch 3.48 pm to 8.16 e Last quarter De

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MEDIA

Why has Nelson Mandela attacked the 'white' press? **PAGE 38**



SPAIN

A special report as Spain's Premier arrives in London **PAGES 42-44**



SPORT

Nannini finally savours his lap of honour **PAGES 51-56**

TELEVISION AND RADIO

PAGES 54, 55

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 27 1996



Screen test: dealers at Midland Global Markets listen to the detail as the Chancellor delivers his Budget statement in the Commons yesterday

Budget given cautious welcome by business

Budget as prodent, ignoring pressure for pre-election expansion measures in favour of moves to cut public borrowing and sustain overall economic growth.

34.51.ES

But they were sceptical about the lo income tax cut. as well as its possible impact on inflation, and maintained reductions in public spending their belief that interest rates While the CBI said that are likely to rise again before the General Election. The City, with one eye on a

decline in share prices on Wall Street, marked shares lower during the Chancellor's during the Chancellor's speech. The FT-SE 100 index, which ended the day 13.8 up at 4.068.4, had been about 20 points higher when he stood up to speak at 3.30 pm. Earlier in the day the index had.

day higher against the mark at DM2-5549, rising to 93.2 on the trade weighted index from 92.8 on Monday.

The Confederation of British Industry welcomed the reduction in public borrowing. But it was cautious until it saw details of the planned While the CBI said that personal tax cuts had been

"limited to an acceptable level", it warned of a number of tax changes which might add to business costs, such as the increase in airport duties and insurance premium tax.

Company directors gave the Budget "nine out of ten", according to the Institute of Directors. IoD leaders said business had flargely got

BUSINESS leaders broadly surged to an all-time peak of what it wanted" in terms of a business is that while the cut is black economy, the reduction Ruth Lea, IoD policy head, said the Budget was "in the right direction", which took the pressure off interest ratesbut she said warned that the Bank of England was still likely to press for a further

> Budget special. Leading article. Red Book Markets, Tempus

rate rise before the election.

David Richardson, president of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "A penny cut in income tax will do nothing for business and investment. Only time will be the test of the inflationary consequences of

the lp cut. The worry for

may not be affordable to business if interest rates have to rise." There was also concern about the possible inflationary consequences of the phased abolition of tax relief on profit-related pay. Cham-bers leaders said that com-panies would have to fund the difference in employees pay. But employers in the engineer-

ing industry praised the change, suggesting it would give employers time to alter pay structures. Small busises were more mixed. The Federation of Small Businesses gave it a cautious welcome, but the Forum of Private Business said it was the "best Budget in a decade for ownermanaged firms", citing especially the clampdown on the

ance and the uniform busi-

ness rate moves. Share dealers felt events on Wall Street overnight were likely to have a far greater impact on London's financial markets this morning, than measures in the Budget-Brokers said the index fall that accompanied the speech was prompted by an erratic performance by the Dow, where an early 42-point lead was quickly

Philip Isherwood, equity market strategist at Kleinwort Benson said: "The Budget was a lot tighter than it

originally seemed. The gilt market should go better and we would envisage seeing the equity market reach 4,200 by the year end."

City accuses Clarke of getting his sums wrong

THE City last night pounced on what it termed a crucial inconsistency in the Chancellor's economic forecasts that would leave pressure in the financial markets to raise interest rates intact.

Economists argued that growth of 3.5 per cent, fuelled by a marked acceleration in consumer spending, was in-consistent with the Chancelcourse to hit the Government's arget for underlying inflation

of 2.5 per cent or less. The Chancellor revised up his forecast for erowth a touch from 3.25 per cent and also his prediction for domestic demand, which moved up from Budget. Consumer spending is expected to grow by some-

what more than 4 per cent. Together with a doubling of what the Treasury now exsummer forecast to around 10 per cent in the Budget calculations — there is great scepti-cism that the inflation target

can be met. Budget represented a modest fiscal tightening, many economists felt that the package would give the economy some-

thing of a stimulus. Although Kenneth Clarke claimed that his £2 billion of tax cuts were roughly offset by £2 billion in spending cuts, there was scepticism about whether the spending cuts were real. His calculations relied partly on a cut in the Government's contingency re-

serve, partly on capital spend-

ing by the Government being transferred to the private sector via the Private Finance Initiative and partly through ance measures that cannot be

relied upon to deliver. Professor Doug McWilliams, Director of the Centre for Economics and Business Research, said that the Budget would expand demand overall and that this would lead to higher interest rates and a stronger pound.

John Shepperd, chief economist at Yamaichi International Europe, said that the Chancellor had been able to deliver a Budget that appeared to have something for

There was, he said, some prudence on borrowing, which will now come down by more than was planned in the summer as well as some tax cuts. But this combination came courtesy of strong economic growth and representinconsistent with the Government's inflation target.

There were few quarrels with the Chancellor's lower forecast for the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement peared to be consistent with his upward revisions to economic growth.

The Treasury is now expecting a PSBR in the 1997/98 financial year of £19 billion, compared with the £23 billion figure pencilled into the summer forecast.

The Chancellor left his forecast for this year virtually unchanged. In the summer, he was looking at a PSBR of £26.9 billion. This has now been revised to £26.5 billion.

BUSINESS TODAY

3-mth Interbani

Penguin buy

Pearson became America's third largest consumer book publisher with the \$336 million buy of Putnam Berkley. Putnam will be integrated with Penguin, doubling its US market shares to 12 per cent. Page 31

Splashing out

Severn Trent, the water company, will spend £250 million to buy back up to ten per cent of its shares even though one out of five pints of water are still leaking out of its pipes. Page 34

Grid blames price review for job cuts

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

NATIONAL Grid Group. Britain's electricity transmission network, is ready to implement job cuts that will result in a 20 per cent reduction in the workforce in its

National Grid blames its recent pricing review from the plator for the 750 job losses, which will be phased over four years. The cuts come as the company steps up its automanon, shifting sub-stations to fully automated control.

David Jones, chief execu-tive, dismissed union fears that savage job cuts could trigger blackouts and jeopar-dise the system. He said: Automated stations will im-National Grid said actual

pre-tax profits fell £43 million, to £292.7 million, in the halfyear to September 30, in line with analysts expectations.

The interim dividend, payable on February 17, was set at 4.45p, an increase of 8.3 per cent. The final dividend will be 6.68p a share. National Grid has pledged to meet dividend growth targets outlined at flotation, in spite of the pricing review agreed by the company last month, which will cut average household bills by £4. The pricing curbs will take El

On a pro-forma basis, reflect-

ing the effect of last year's

stock market flotation, pre-tax

profits rose 4.9 per cent.

Pennington, page 31

billion off Grid revenues.

Spending by card leaps 28% to £7.5bn

CONSUMERS spent £7.5

per cent, while debit card spending rose 34 per cent, to £3.3 billion The latest figures from the Credit Card Research Group showed that spending on credit and debit cards was up 28 per cent on October last year, reaching

£1,557 a second on credit

cards, and £1,228 a second using debit cards. Elizabeth Phillips, its di-rector, said: "Now that consumer spending is at its highest level for six years, credit and debit card spending is reaching new highs."

Eurotunnel debt deal delayed

By Jason Nisse

cause a delay of weeks, or even months, before a deal, agreed in outline with the bankers' steering committee last month, can be put to the 225-strong bank-Talks between the banks,

a revised deal cannot be agreed until the French Tribunal de Commerce, which is overseeing the restructuring, completes its report into the fire, which will take at least two more weeks. It is thought that a full service cannot resume for at least three

Trading in Eurotunnel debt has dried up. The highest offers being made by investors have fallen from 40p in the pound to 33p.

agreed seven weeks ago to a deal that would convert up to £4 billion of loans into equity or bonds, giving the banks a 49 per cent stake. It now has to sell the

billion on plastic in October, as high streets continued to enjoy the fruits of improved confidence and spending EUROTUNNEL is being forced to insert new clauses power (Janet Bush writes). into its £9 billion debt restruc-Credit card spending grew to £4.2 billion, up 24 turing agreement because of the fire last week that has

closed the tunnel. Senior bankers say this will

ing syndicate for ratification. Eurotunnel and its advisers are taking place to arrive at a new formula to tackle the disruption caused by the fire and to find a form of words that will deal with what would happen if there were any further substantial disruption

to service. The bankers believe

months, costing Eurotunnel about £165 million.

The steering committee

Anglo gives EU platinum assurance



Ogilvie Thompson: upbeat

ANGLO AMERICAN, the South African mining group, is hopeful of striking an agreement with the European Commission over its stake in Lonrho, the hotels to platinum group. Julian Ogilvie Thomp-son, chairman of Anglo, said the group had no intention of acquiring Lonrho's platinum interests.

Announcing an upbeat set of interim results. Mr Ogilvie Thompson said he was confident of reaching a satisfactory agreement with the Commission, which is alarmed at the prospect of a single player dominating the platinum market. The issue leapt to the fore last month, when Dieter Bock, then Lonrho's chief executive, sold his 18.4 per cent stake in the company to Anglo for £258 million.

The Commission acted in April to block Lonrho and Gencor from creating a platinum supergroup, because of fears that Angle and Lonrho would use their joint dominance of the market to fix prices. Karel Van Miert, European Competition Commissioner, gave warning then that the proposed link-up would create a duopoloy dominating the world's markets in platinum and rhodium. Similarly, he said, any takeover bid for Lonrho by Anglo would be opposed.

Anglo had recently taken an option over

18.4 per cent of Lonrho shares, lifting its

effective stake to 28.5 per cent. Mr Ogilvie

Thompson reaffirmed yesterday that the

company would keep its platinum interests separate. His comments came as Anglo announced headline earnings for the six months to September 30 up 22 per cent to 2.44 billion rand (£310 million). The interim dividend is up 23 per cent to 160 cents per share. Diamonds were the biggest contributor, up from 20 to 26 per cent. Platinum, base metals, and other mining interests saw contributions slip 1 per cent to 10 per cent.

in a joint statement, Anglo, De Beers, and the African Mining Group Consortium led by Capital Alliance Holdings, said they had reached agreement in principle to acquire a 34.9 per cent stake in JCI Limited. The purchase price is



Book between 23.1 L96 and 29.1 L96 Inclusive. Hy between 23.1 L96 and 27.3.97 inclusive. Fares are one way and subject to availability. Tickets cannot be changed or cancelled. Excluding airport toxes and applicable charges.

The Red Book: underlying inflation is down to the target of 2.5% or less

Consumer spending to grow at 3%

The Chancellor says that he has one overriding aim — the lasting health of the British economy. If there are any risks of inflationary pressures re-emerging he will act

THE following are extracts from the Financial Statement and Bud-get Report 1997-98 (Red Book) on ecent developments and prospects for the economy.

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UK ECONOMY Demand growth slowed in 1995, partly in response to the slowdown in activity in continental Europe. The impact on output was cushioned by an accumulation of excess stocks, and GDP grew at an annual rate of around 2 per cent for much of the year. Consumer demand has strengthened since the beginning of 1996, and exports have also grown more strongly. After little growth in 1995, business investment was up substantially in the first three

quarters of this year.

Despite this strengthening of final demand, GDP growth did not pick up in the first half of 1996, as firms ran off their excess stocks. However, there are now clear signs that stronger demand is feeding through to output, and GDP grew at an annual rate of over 3 per cent in the third quarter.

It is mainly service sector output that has strengthened this year, growing at an annual rate of over 3½ per cent in both the second and third quarters. Manufacturing output remained broadly flat over the year to the second quarter, held back by stock adjustment. However, it then rose by 0.7 per cent in the third quarter, and business surveys suggest that it will strengthen further in the coming months. After showing little change for over a year, construction output also rose in the third

PROSPECTS

Stock adjustment may largely have run its course. Consumers expenditure is likely to continue to expand quickly in response to higher incomes and wealth and rising consumer confidence. With capacity utilisation rising and company balance sheets strong, this should be accompanied by a continued recovery in business investment. And exports should benefit from a strengthening of activity elsewhere in Europe. Against this background of rising demand, GDP is forecast to grow at an annual rate of almost 312 per cent over the next

PERSONAL SECTOR

Consumers' expenditure strengthened since the end of last year, growing at an annual rate of almost 4 per cent over the first three quarters of 1996, compared with growth of 2 per cent in 1995 as a whole. The pattern of spending has also changed. While services accounted for much of the growth in spending in the first half of 1995, it is spending on durable goods which has led the way so far this year. This is consistent with rising consumer confidence, strong

growth in consumer credit and a recovering housing market. Monthly indicators suggest that consumer spending has continued

to grow strongly. Retail sales in the three months to October were 4 per cent higher than a year earlier, while the CBI Distributive Trades Survey shows the most buoyant annual sales growth for over eight years. New car registrations in the three months to October were up 3½ per cent on a vear earlier. Consumer credit rose by 16 per cent over the year to September, and the EC/GfK index of consumer confidence has risen to its highest levels since the late 1980s.

Real personal disposable income is forecast to grow by 33, per cent this year. Dividend payments, which increased by a quarter in 1995, are unlikely to rise as much this year; but real earnings are now growing more quickly, and the income tax cuts which took effect in April have added over 2 per cent to disposable incomes. Taking account of the tax changes announced in this Budget, real disposable incomes are projected to grow by 24 per cent next year.

HOUSING

The recovery in the housing market is now well established. According to both the Halifax and Nationwide indices, prices have been rising since the middle of 1995, and in October were over 7 per cent higher than a year earlier. Rising house prices have helped to reduce the number of households in negative equity to less than half the peak level at the end of 1992.

Low mortgage rates, rising real incomes and a low house priceearnings ratio mean that houses are very affordable, and the number of first-time buyers is now increasing. A relative shortage of certain types of property on the market has tended to push up prices. However, supply should months, as rising prices encourage last-time sellers or those trading down to put their houses on the market and the recent increase in new housing starts feeds through to higher completions. This increase in supply should help to

Private housing investment, which includes both new housebuilding and improvements to existing properties, is forecast to grow only slightly this year. The pick-up in housing starts in recent months, as housebuilders have responded to the recovery in the market, should be reflected in stronger housing investment in

CORPORATE SECTOR

Profits increased by around a third between 1992 and 1994. They grew more slowly from the beginning of

1995 as productivity growth temporarily slowed. But both profits and

the rate of return on capital remain

The financial surplus of industrial

and commercial companies has

fallen from around 2 per cent of

GDP in 1994 to under 1 per cent of

GDP in the first half of this year.

However, company liquidity re-

mains high, and the balance of firms in the CBI survey citing a

shortage of internal finance as a

constraint on investment eased in

October to its lowest level for over

seven years. The balance of firms

citing a lack of external finance as a

constraint on investment remains

should therefore have little difficul-

ty in financing higher expenditure

LABOUR MARKET

Unemployment has continued to

fall. The Labour Force Survey

(LFS) measure fell by more than

150,000 over the year to the

summer quarter (June to August).

Claimant unemployment fell by

almost 180,000 over the same period, and by a further 80,000

between August and October, sug-

gesting that the rate of decline has

gathered pace recently. In October,

the claimant count was over

950,000 below its peak in Decem-

According to the LFS, employ-

ment rose by 210,000 over the year

to the summer quarter, which is

greater than the fall in unemploy-

ment. The employer-based survey

shows a smaller rise, but the LFS

data seem more consistent with

PRODUCTIVITY.

other labour market indicators.

ber 1992.

on fixed investment and stocks.

very low levels. Companies

high by historical standards.

Activity has also been increasing. In the third quarter of this year, the number of mortgage loans ap-proved by banks and building societies was up by 28 per cent on a year earlier, and in the three months to October turnover (as measured by particulars delivered at the Land Registry) was up by 19 per cent on a year earlier.

moderate the increase in house

Growth in productivity (output per head) appears to have been comparatively slow over the past two

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and his Treasury team of Phillip Oppenheim, Exchequer Secretary, left, Michael Jack, Financial Secretary, Angela Knight, Economic Secretary, and William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary, are ready to tackle government finances with careful and prudent control of public expenditure years, particularly in manufactur-ing. This partly reflects the fact that a high proportion of the growth in employment last year was in parttime jobs - measured in terms of 'hours worked' rather than 'heads', productivity growth would be stronger. Firms are also likely to have hoarded labour to some extent in anticipation that demand would strengthen, and productivity is likely to accelerate as output

The sterling exchange rate index, which measures the sterling exchange rate against a basket of currencies, has risen by almost 10 per cent since the summer, taking it

General gov't expenditure Geni gov't receipts Geni gov't borrowing req Public corps' market

& a'seas borrowing (PCMOB)

PSBR as % of money GDP

General govt expenditure

General govt receipts General govt borrowing req PCMOB

Money GDP - £ billion

Money GDP

above its end-1994 level. It has appreciated against the Deutschmark and the Yen and, to a

lesser extent, against the US dollar. The forecast is based on the conventional assumption that sterling remains close to recent levels. The 12-month rate of increase in the

RPI excluding mortgage interest payments (MIPs) remained around per cent for most of this year. Although retail prices were unchanged between September and October, the 12-month rate of inflation rose from 2.9 to 3.3 per cent, as the exceptional price falls in October 1995 were not repeated.

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Outhurn		recast			Projection ^a	
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269.2	280.9	299.4			352	370
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-22	-1.3	-0.4	0	D	٥.	0
31.7	26.4	19,2	12	3.	-8	-18
42%	41%	401/2	391/2	39	38%	· 37½
38	37%	38	38	381/2	. 39	39%.
4%	3%	21/2	11/2	1/2		-2
<u>-x</u>	-14	0	0	0	0.	0
41/2	31/2	21/2	11/2	1/4	-%	2
708.5	745.7	786.9	826	864	903	943

1998-9 1999-00 2000-01 2000-02 Output (GDP) Prices: GDP deflator RPI ex MIPs

from 3's per cent at the end of last year to 2 and three quarter per cent in September, it rose to 3 per cent in October because of higher petrol prices and the drought-related sharp fall in seasonal food prices last October dropping out of the 12-month calculation. Excluding petrol and food, the 12-month rate of goods price inflation was un-changed from September. The

increase in petrol prices, reflecting the sharp rise in oil prices in recent months, added 0-3 percentage points to the 12-month RPI inflation rate in September and October.

Retail services price inflation increased from around 2 per cent at the turn of the year to 212 per cent in September. The rise to 3 per cent in October largely reflected insurance rices levelling out after the large alls over the past two years.

espite continuing falls in unemloyment, wage pressures have emained subdued. Manufacturig carnings growth has risen only little over the past year. Earnings rowth in the service sector has icked up from a low level, but hole economy underlying averge earnings growth has now mained at or below 4 per cent for er three years. Settlements have en fairly flat, suggesting that the difference between earnings growth and settlements (reflecting

Despite some pick-up recently in capacity utilisation, the latest CBI survey suggests that inflationary pressures in manufacturing remain subdued. However, retail goods price inflation has so far

fallen much less than producer

payments such as overtime and

bonuses) has widened a little.

output price inflation, despite lower import prices of consumer goods. Retailers are likely to have taken the opportunity offered by stronger sales to undertake some rebuilding of margins. However, with competition in retailing remaining fierce. a large pick-up in margins seems unlikely.

TATION PROSPECTS

The 12-month rate of producer output price inflation is forecast to remain below 12 per cent. Lower import prices and producer output price inflation will continue to feed through to retail prices over the next few months. With, in addition, earnings growth remaining subdued and strong retail competition restraining margins, RPI ex MIPs inflation is forecast to fall from 3 per cent at the end of this year to 21: per cent by the second quarter of

The GDP deflator is projected to increase by 22 per cent in the current financial year and by 2 per cent in 1997-98.

EDP GROWTH

The forecast of GDP growth for this year is unchanged from the Summer Economic Forecast and 2 percentage point lower than in last ear's Budget forecast. GDP growth in 1997 is now forecast to be slightly stronger than in the summer. RPI excluding MIPs inflation is forecast to be higher in the fourth quarter of this year than expected at the time of both the Summer Economic Forecast and the last Budget, mainly reflecting the effects of the sharp rise in oil prices since the summer. The forecast of the current account deficit for this year has been revised down since the summer. The PSBR is now expected to be £4 billion lower in 1997-98 than forecast in the

Increased efficiencies enable Clarke to promise more for education, law and order and the health service

EXTRACTS from the Red Book on government spending

Control Total is planned to grow on average by 21/2 per cent a year over the three Survey years in cash terms. On current projections of the GDP deflator, this represents real growth of about 2 per cent a year.

SPENDING PLANS

The new plans increase spending on priority programmes. Provision in 1997-98 has been increased compared to 1996-97 for the NHS, schools and for the police and prisons. In-creases for priorities, together with substantial increases in the unavoidable costs of social security spending, are financed by allocating some of the unallocated part of the Government's plans (which is called the Reserve) and from savings elsewhere. The Government has retained tight control of departmental running costs, and has decided on a substantial package of measures to reduce social security fraud, improve tax compliance and combat evasion and

CAPITAL SPENDING

Public services benefit not just from direct public sector investment but also from capital spending by the private sector under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI). Total capital spending sponsored by the

MICHAEL BENNETT

public sector is forecast to rise over the next three years from over £20 billion a year to £22 By themselves, even these

figures can give a misleading picture of the level of investment in public services. When the Government buys services from the private sector, investment undertaken by the companies that provide the services is not counted as public sector investment; very often, however, it involves the formation of assets which are deployed to meet public needs. The privatisation programme has brought significant qualitative and quantitative benefits from capital investment in industries which used to be predominantly in the public

PRIVATE FINANCE

Since April 1995 the Government has introduced a series of changes to the capital finance regulations to facilitate PFI in the local authority sector. These culminated in new regulations which became effective on October 31 1996. Local authorities can now participate fully in DBFO schemes as well as joint ventures, giving them a wider choice of procurement

The Government is giving authorities substantial backing by making available revenue support for £50 million of PFI investment in England this year, and £200 million

Public expenditure to be cut by £7bn over three years

projects in Scotland and Walcs. There are now many projects in the pipeline covering a wide range of services, including schools, police stations and headquarters, magistrates courts and roads.

In the next three years the rate of investment, the flow of new PFI deals, and the delivery of PFI services, will all increase. New projects under negotiation or identified as strong future PFI candidates include major hospital projects, new DBFO road projects in England, Scotland and Wales, contracts for Government accommodation in the Treasury and the Department of Social Security, contracts for water and sewerage services in Scotland and Northern Ireland, and numerous projects in the local government sector.

PUBLIC SECTOR

Under the Government's approach to public sector pay. reiterated by the Chancellor in his statement on September 17 1996, pay increases should be offset, or more than offset, by mies. As in the past four years, pay settlements will have to be contained within the new spending plans, and will not be financed from the Reserve. There is no central pay norm but settlements will need to reflect continuing low inflation. The plans have been set on the basis of a rise in prices across the economy as a There is £875 million more for whole, as measured by the GDP deflator, of 2 per cent a year from 1997-98. Excessive pay increases could put at risk

DEFENCE

the delivery of services.

The new plans for defence spending are again consistent with the Government's commitment to maintaining strong, capable and properly resourced Armed Forces. The defence budget for 1997-98 is worth the same in real terms as that announced in last year's FSBR. Defence spending will then remain level in real terms in 1998-99, and rise slightly in 1999-2000. The Ministry of Defence married quarters estate in England and Wales has now been sold

to Annington Homes for over

added to the defence hudget to pay for the additional costs of renting married quarters accommodation - £111 million in each year - and for a £100 million housing upgrade programme.

EDUCATION

schools, colleges and universities in England which includes an overall increase for spending on schools of £830 million in 1997-98. That amounts to a 4.4 per cent increase for schools compared with 1996-97. Provision for local education authority recurrent spending is 3.6 per cent higher than the corresponding figure last year. The increase for schools includes £50 million extra in the schools capital programme for repairs and maintenance.

ENVIRONMENT

The Government has announced a new initiative to encourage local authorities to use private finance to renovate social housing. The Estates Renewal Challenge Fund around £500 million over the next three years. This permits housing estates to be transferred to new private sector landlords who will be able to invest to improve the stock free of public expenditure constraints. As a result, there will be substantial public expenditure savings as housing investment is carried out by

public sector.

the private rather than the

Law and order continues to be a crucial Government priority. The new plans allow planned public spending on the police to increase by £220 million in 1997-98 (in England and Wales), and includes provision to allow Chief Constables to recruit 5,000 additional notice officers over the three years from April 1996.

THE PROPERTY. Total spending on the National Health Service will grow

by £14 billion in 1997-98 compared to 1996-97, more than meeting the Government's commitment to in-

crease real resources year by year. Current spending on patient services is planned to grow by £1.6 billion, an increase of 2.9 per cent in real terms. Efficiency savings worth around £525 million will also be ploughed back into patient care.

The NHS is also benefiting from the Private Finance Initiative. As well as a continuing flow of small schemes, commercial terms have now been agreed for a major hospital deal in South Buckinghamshire. Further schemes will follow. In total, the PFI is set to contribute some £900 million of investment in the Health Service over the next three

years.

The social security plans include revised estimates of the number of claimants and provide for the uprating of benefits every year. The plans take full account of the fall in unemployment. The real growth they imply is in line with the average for the last three years. The increases in expenditure come primarily from faster than expected caseload growth on disability benefits and Income Support. The revised forecasts also take account of new information on the real increases in average amounts paid, particularly in Income Support. The new plans continue the process of focusing benefits on those who need them most. As part of the

described on page 106, they include further steps to ensure that benefits are paid only to those who are entitled to them. The lone parent premium in the income related benefits and, in general, One Parent Benefit will no longer be payable to new claimants from April 1998. Lone parents making new claims from April 1998 will receive the same leve of family premium and Child Benefit as couples with child

spend-to-save

ren, equalising their position.

The qualifying rules in chronic bronchitis and ent physema and asbestos related diseases for industrial injuries. benefit purposes will be extended as recommended by the Industrial Injuries Adv isory Council.

Reforms of benefits paid for housing costs will continue by restricting Housing Benefit for deregulated tenancies #9. the local reference rent and pothe costs of shared accommo dation for single people under pension age, and by restricting Council Tax Benefit par able to people occupying properties with Council Tax above band E. These changes will focus benefits on these who need them most by eff. Couraging people on benefit !!

take cost into account in deciding where to live. In reforming social security expenditure to make it more affordable, the Government has often taken steps to encoul? age private provision. A good example of this is pensions.

☐ Awkward questions about the Rosyth rebuff ☐ Prestigious builder's blunt tool ☐ Shrinking labour market in electricity

☐ THE privatisations of the Naval dockyards at Rosyth, on the Firth of Forth, and Devonport in Plymouth have provided an object lesson in how not to sell off state assets, or, more pre-cisely, how to allow political considerations to ensure the worst possible return to the Exchequer. It is probably as well that Parliament had other things on its mind yesterday than to digest fully the news of the sale of Rosyll, Royal Dockyard.

In 1993 the decision was taken to switch the £5 billion contract to refit Britain's Trident and other nuclear submarines from Rosyth to Devonport, on the basis that the latter management had undercut the former by £10 million; on preparatory work that was put at £120 million. lt was an extraordinary de-

cision. The Navy was dead against it, because on ourely geographical grounds Devon-port was the worst choice. Rather no shallow, said naval sources, worried that they might not be able to get the ships out in time should orgent need arise.

On political grounds it made perfect sense. Rosyth is in Gor-don Brown's constituency and in Scotland to boot, so no extra votes there. Devonport is Liberal Democrat territory, but not at the time looking too solid. The Americans have a phrase for this pork-barrel politics.

A bad decision put in the dock

— top secret, naturally — at the Ministry of Defence. There was even talk that the Navy would have to go cap in hand to the Americans to do the work after 1999, rather than go to Devon-

Rosyth has a huge facility known as the RD57 dock for refitting nuclear subs. Devonport is built on limestone and least and produced assets. state and needs special protec-tion from earthquakes — accord-ing to the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, at least. This adds enormously to the costs, which could total £500 million, accord-

ing to one estimate.
This week saw the formal agreement of the sale of Rosyth to Babcock International, the firm that has managed the yard since 1987. But extraordinarily, the contract to award the Trident contract to Devonport and the sale of the yard to its manage-ment has still to be signed. In an ideal world the job would go to Rosyth, which has the facilities

Within two years it became obvious that the decision was wrong, and the Government started to look at ways to go back on it. There was a formal review. Scots, and before the MoD and the competitive with the Scots, and before the MoD and the competitive with the Scots, and before the MoD and the competitive with the Scots, and before the MoD and the competitive with the Scots, and before the MoD and the competitive with the Scots and before the MoD and the competitive with the scots and the competitive with the scots and the competitive with the comp the NII changed the rules.

But the decision this week to switch some of that nuclear relitting work, on two "hunter killer subs, back to Rosyth again, speaks volumes. It is as ose to a climbdown as ministers apparently feel able to come. When the contract with management at Devonport is finally signed, and this is prom-ised within weeks, MPs should be primed to ask some awkward questions about the extra cost.

Time for Costain to come clean

☐ IT is now almost three weeks since shares in Costain, once one of Britain's most prestigious builders and now one of the country's most penurious, were suspended for the second time in a year. The impression given at the time, in a very brief statement, was that the suspension was made at the start of a long

PENNINGTON

board meeting that would settle the company's future, and in particular the long-delayed sale of its US coal businesss. More news would come at the end of that meeting

One only hopes that they took plenty of sandwiches in with them because no announcement has crawled onto the Stock Exchange screens yet. It will come, Costain's advisers now say, "in due course", in weeks rather than days. The board are putting various things together, you understand, but what these

are, no one can say. Persist, and you can enjoy a fascinating if intellectually tortu-ous philosophical debate on whether there has been a delay. It is taking longer than was

thought but there is no delay; it is just that putting those things together with those other things took longer than expected. Does this not add up to a delay anyway? No, because no one knew how long the process would take in the first place. The halting of share dealings

means that investors, many of whom by now must wish they had never heard of Costain, cannot sell. Such suspensions are a blunt tool, and their use should not be prolonged. This is why they are generally referred to as temporary. Shareholders have no idea what is really

happening, and no means of cutting their losses and exiting. Except that some shareholders are very much in the know. The three investors who own 77 per cent of Costain are involved in the discussions on the coal sale, so they know what is going on. Mrs Bloggs, of 22 Acacia Avenue, hasn't a clue, bless her. So much for all shareholders being treated equally. The three controlling investors would have to be consulted, as any one could make the implementation of an

eventual deal difficult if it chose

to. But given the suspension, it would do no harm to give Costain's small shareholders some idea of what is going on.

Making light work of job-cutting

☐ SOME of our electricity companies really should be members of the Magic Circle, so skilled are they at pulling large numbers of jobs out of the hat in order to cut them. Has the industry really been such a gravy train that swathes of people can be so easily disposed of to boost shortterm performance?

The job toll since privatisation is approaching 50,000 - and the lights are still on. One must hope that the arrangements between companies to share engineers does not go awry in harsh weather, when they will be hardpressed to be in three regions at once. Last year the industry regulator upheld complaints from some customers who claimed broken power lines were not repaired quickly enough.

Yesterday came confirmation that the National Grid was to cut nearly one in five jobs. These are the people that make sure Britain's transmission system is up to scratch, and would have to repair the network should it fall victim to a terrorist attack - so far untried, but not impossible.

The National Grid, which said early this year that the system was on the point of collapse because of heavy demand, said the job losses have been forced by the last pricing review. But the regulator dropped heavy hints that remuneration was one area the company could look to

evidence of that yet. We are still in the relatively early days of privatisation. The City is happy with the immediate gains delivered by the job-cutting companies. Will we be as happy with our electricity service sev-eral years down the line?

Going, going GNE

☐ TALKING of privatisation, a colleague has just tried to book a return ticket to Newcastle upon Tyne on the basis that he gets out at Leeds, drives to Tyneside and takes the train back to London. Fine under British Rail, whose staff had a reputation for being surly and unco-operative. The Great North Eastern says its smiling, customer-friendly in-spectors will physically prevent

Pearson buy promotes Penguin

PEARSON became America's lous way to start at Penguin." third-largest consumer book Putnam will expand Penguin's publisher yesterday with the \$336 million purchase of Putnam Berkley, whose stable of bestselling authors includes Tom Clancy, Patricia Corn-well and Dick Francis.

Putnam will be integrated with Penguin, Pearson's biggest consumer book business. doubling Penguin's share of industry sales in America to about 12 per cent. Pearson said that the acquisition will move Penguin from fourth to second position in the global English-

Pearson bought Putnam from MCA, the Hollywood studio acquired last year by Seagram, the Canadian spirits group that owns Oddbins in Britain MCA is to concentrate on its film and music

Phyllis Grann, chairman and chief executive of Pumam. is to be president of the merged Penguin-Putnam group, re-porting to Michael Lynton, places Peter Mayer as Penguin's chairman and chief executive next month. Mr Lynton said: The two businesses complement each other extremely well. It is a marvel-

range of consumer books, Mr strength its backlist, or catalogue of older titles, and Putnam's its frontlist, or new titles. Putnam has stronger profit margins because new titles have higher prices. On 1995 figures, Penguin

and Putnam together will have sales of about \$650 million, profits of about \$65 million and some 2,000 employees. John Makinson, finance director at Pearson, said that New York City, will eventually create annual cost savings of \$20 million by combining divisions. He would not say how many employees face redundancy.

Cost-cutting is designed to raise the margins of the Penguin-Putnam group to about 15 per cent. Putnam's are 12

Mr Lynton said that Penguin probably will try to expand through acquisitions in the short to medium term.

Anglo Irish Bank lifts profits 26%

FROM EILEEN McCABE IN DUBLIN

ANGLO Irish Bank Corporation, the merchant bank with operations in the Irish Repub-I lic and the United Kingdom, yesterday reported a 26 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to Ir£24.1 million, in the year to September 30.

Sean Pitzpatrick, chief executive, said the results were a "good, solid, repeatable periormance". He added: "The pow erhouse of our profitability is in Ireland, but all our operations in the United Kingdom and Austria also performed well. We have carefully positioned ourselves in the middle market niche and we have increased our share there."

Buoyant markets in the UK and the republic supported a 36 per cent increase in lending, to Irtl 4 billion. There was a 30 per cent rise in deposits, to Ir£2 billion, as the bank sought to broaden its

Earnings per share rose by 31 per cent, to Ir7.46p. The final dividend rises by 10 per cent, to Ir2.2p, payable on January 22, making a year total of Ir3.7p, up from ir3.36p.

Ashley son returns to the board

By Jon Ashworth

NICHOLAS ASHLEY, a for mer director of Laura Ashley, and one of the children of the company's founding couple, has returned to the fold. Mr Ashley, 39, has been appointed a non-executive director of the company, ensur

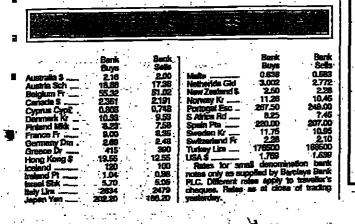
ing the presence of an Ashley

family member at board

Mr Ashley will alternate with his father, Sir Bernard, who stepped down as chair man in 1993 to become honorary life president. Mr Ashley was previously design director of the clothing and home furnishing company, the pos-ition held by his late mother, Laura, but left in 1991 to set up his own business. He designs

and produces specialist motorcycling clothe Laura Ashley died in an accident in 1986, shortly before the group floated on the stock market.

The company is now head ed by Ann Iverson, an American, who was recruited in July 1995 to revive the company's fortunes. Her arrival coincided with a wide ranging board-



ertorms as well on paper as 1t on the road.



EDS. We don't just see things, we see things through.

To be more successful in increasingly competitive international markets, Saab wanted to improve productivity and quality even further.

They entered into a CoSourcing relationship with EDS to help take their strategic planning through to its natural conclusion and turn their vision into reality.

As a result, the production process was restructured, cutting the time it took to build a car in half while quality improved measurably. So what's the bottom line? Well, Saab are extremely happy because they're now building cars more profitably.

And Saab owners are delighted because they're driving higher quality vehicles.

A more productive way of working





Shares buoyed by Bu and Dow's record h

SHARE prices got off to another flying start on the back of Wall Street's overnight record-breaking run that carried the Dow Jones industrial average through the 6,500 level for the first time.

Investiture at !

this morning

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The Duke o

The leakage of confidential Government documents to a national newspaper confirming the Chancellor of the Exchequer's decision to cut income tax by lp in the pound City has been urging the Chancellor to ignore calls for a giveaway Budget

During the first half-hour of trading, the FT-SE 100 share index soured almost 40 points to a high of 4,094.4 before settling down to a more sedate pace as investors began to focus on the forthcoming speech. By the time the Chancellor rose at 3.30pm, it was 22.1 points up, at 4.076.7, as the Dow began again to extend its record-breaking run. A total of 626 million shares had already been trad-

The strong overnight rise in share prices in Hong Kong was good news for HSBC Holdings, up 36p at £13.012, and Cable and Wireless, 5p better at 493p.

Rank Organisation firmed 2p, to 425p, ahead of a presentation for fund managers arranged by Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, which is a big fan. The drinks sector was of

good cheer during the morning as the word went round that the Chancellor, fond of the odd tipple himself, might take pity on the brewers and distillers and cut duty by as much as 10p a pint in order to counter the affects of the booze cruises to continental Europe.

Bass touched 8192p. before finishing 3p easier at 8112p. but there were gains for Hardys and Hanson, up 3p to 297p, Scottish & Newcastle, 62p to 6542p, and Whitbread, 34p to 755p. Grand Metropolitan, which owns Courage, also hardened 3p to 471 p. Guinness. Britain's dearer, at 458½p, and High-land Distilleries was 1½p

better, at 3334 p. seen its price drop from a peak of 377p this year after losing market share to alcopops, managed to claw back some of its recent losses with a rise of 2p at 292 2p. This follows reports that the Chancellor was about to levy hefty



John Jarvis and David Thomas of Jarvis Hotels, up 4½ p

increases in duty on alcopops. The two biggest producers of alcopops are Merrydown. with Two Dogs, down I p at 984p, and Hoopers Hooch.

The banks were chased higher ahead of the Chancellor's speech, with stock shortages in the sector exaggerating price movements. Barclays put on 62 p to £10.10. National

suffer. It finished 6p lower at 75p, just 11p above its all-time National Grid slipped 12p to 19712p after announcing a

group reaffirmed its intention

of buying back up to 10 per cent of the equity.

to repair the Channel link

continue to grow, so the price

of Eurotunnel continues to

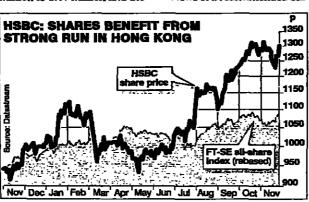
As the cost and time needed

Fans of BTR are difficult to find, but NatWest Securities reckons the shares are too cheap for a company that is expected to generate double-digit earnings growth while increasing shareholder value. The group's core businesses have generated returns in excess of the cost of the capital. The shares firmed 2p, to 239 2p.

Vestminster 5p to 698p, Standard Chartered 112p to 680p, Abbey National 42p to 683p. and Bank of Scotland 22p to 296p. Royal Bank of Scotland was 64 p firmer at 530p ahead of figures tomorrow.

Half-year results from Severn Trent received cautious approval from the City, with the price adding 12p at 669p. Pre-tax profits grew by £8 million to £197 million and the profits downturn and the loss of up to 750 jobs over the next four years. The job losses were part of a move to cut costs by 6 per cent a year in order to meet tough pricing controls proposed by the regulator.

British Gas fell 42p to 23lp after Shell finally put paid to recent reports that the two companies were planning a News of a recommended bid



Bouroe: Dates/ream	HSBC share price	1250 1200 1150 1100 1050 1000 FT-SE all-share index (rebased) 950
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Average fassiock prices at representative markets on November 25	Feb 22.18-22.20 May 20.70 SLR Mar 21.67-21.70 Vol. 26752	Vol. 206 lots Open interest 3966 Index 1434-9
(p/kg lw) Pig Sheep Cattle GB: 95.12 137.22 112.12		
	(Official) (Volume prev day) LONDON	METAL EXCHANGE Radolf Wolf
(+/-)	Copper Gde A IS/Ronnel Caste 2485.0-	2490.0 3mdr 2255.0-2220.0 Val: 1685325
(++)	Lead (\$110mme)	709.00 713.00-714.00 256 65 0
(%)	Zinc Spec HI Gde (\$rionne) 1058.5-	1059.5 10R2.0-1082.5 36999
Scotland: 97,7 137.6 114.7	Tin (S/leane)	
(+/-)	Aluminium Hi Gde (\$/tonne) (499.0-	
-30.0 -23.0 +9.0	Nickel (\$/10m1e) 6925.0-	4930.0 7010.0-7015.0 59828
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3 750 47' 61' 69 64 22': 28' 785' 800 (7' 32': 42 26' 47' 53':	Goloness 430 484 524 56 24 84 114 (4584) 460 19 26 314 15 25 28	Royal & Sun 431 30 381: - 51: 17 -
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Tet: 17016 F1SE CIRE LARGE FOR NOW!	Jun _ 100 - 1487; 148	f=3344
Amendad accord large		

MICHAEL BENNETT

-	
	Hong Kong: Hang Seng 13465_33 (+245.94
Budget	Amsterdam: EOE index 627.10 (+3.83
uusci	Sydney: 23820 (+127
high	Frankfurt: 2810.64 (+11.45
high	Singapore: 22/9.88 (+14.19
left Specialcyes 40 cheaper at	Brussels: 10382.32 (+43.25
62 p. Optical Express, its rival, had made an offer of 6p a	Paris: 2275.08 (-2.06)
share, valuing the entire com- pany at £1.9 million. The deal has been approved by direc-	Zurich: 822.10 - 2.60
tors of Specialeyes, accounting for almost 20 per cent of the	London: 2833.0 (+4.4
equity. Half-year figures from	FT 100 4068.4 (+)3.8 FTSE MId 250 4423.4 (+).1
John Jarvis, chairman of the fast-growing Jarvis Hotels.	FTSE 350
and David Thomas, deputy	FTSE Eurotrack 100 1858.19 (+4.32 FT All-Share
chief executive, were well re-	FT Non Financials 2075.4 (+0.8
ceived. The price added 42p	FT Fixed Interest 116.83 (+0.29 FT Govt Secs 94.83 (+0.09
to 1702 p. The group is target-	Rayoning
ing three new hotels in the	SEAQ Volume839.8m
second half.	USM (Datastrro)
Trace Computers slumped	German Mark 2.5549 (+0.0130
4p to 224 p after plunging into	Exchange index
the red and deciding not to pay	Bank of England official close (4pm)
a dividend. The group made a	EECU 1.3171
loss last year of E5.13 million	RPI 153.8 Oct (2.7%) Jan 1987=1(10
compared with a surplus of	RPIX 153.6 Oct (3.3%) Jan 1987=100

Sciect Appointments fell		al e
2½p to 327½p after announc-		
ing details of its offering of	Access Plus (90)	ו075
American Depository Shares.		
A total of three million ADS's	Beaufort (3)	44
are being issued, raising	Beechcroft	4
	Brands Hatch Leis	1795
around £15 million. The issue	Britt Alleroft	15712
has been priced at \$10.50,	Charles Taylor	1745
equivalent to 213p per ordi-	Deep Sea Leis (160)	16212
nary share. Brokers said pric-	Druid Grp	293
ing of the issue had failed to	Exeter Inv	97'z
live up to expectations.	First Russian Frts C	595
United Drug is asking	Geo Interactive Md	915
	Grantchester Hidgs	12312
shareholders to dig deep into	Healthcare Reform	98

their pockets in order to raise £12.4 million by way of a heavily discounted rights is-Loftus Road (72) Mears Group Oliver Ashworth sue. The money will be used to strengthen its balance sheet. The price firmed 5p to 365p. A profits warning left Bearing International Power Second St David Inc 110'2

nursing a fall of 32p at 172p. Second St David Res 9'1 after 144 p. The group says Second St David Z Pf 184'2 full-year profits will be sub-Snakeboard (3) stantially below current market expectations ranging between £1.6 million and £1.8 million. It blames a new method of stock valuation agreed with its auditors. Still drawing strength from

Arcadian Intl n/p (45) 2 Bodycote Intl n/p 131 Bridgert-Gun n/n this week's profits and acquisi-Capital Shop 625% n/p 14 tion news, Hercules Property More Group n/p (600) 185 touched 90p before ending the Regalian Prps n/p (30) 2 session 2p firmer at 85p. GILT EDGED: The bond Vision Gp n/p (235) 63½ market traded in narrow limits for much of the session with

Open

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64-64

G-O'n

prices clawing back an early changed on the day as the Chancellor rose in the Commons. In futures, the December series of the long gilt was unchanged at fill's.

NEW YORK: On Wall Street, shares were lower at midday as program trades sent them see-sawing. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 22.73 points at

LONDOR FINA

FTSE 100

FTSE 250

Three Month Sterling

Three Mth Euro Yen

Three Mth Euro DM

Japanese Govint Bond

German Gov Bd Bund

Three month ECU

Italian Governt Bond

Sterling CDs Dollar CDs:

Mkt Rates for Novem

A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hee 6

5047 3-20-3-34

Lawr. \$372.95-373.45 AM: \$374.50 Krugerrand: \$373.00-376.00 (£223.00-225.00)

ber 26 Runge 2.8541-2.8689 52.300-52.455 9.76.10-9.8158 0.79.67-1.0015 2543-2.5556 254.52-2.556 2.203-2.754.7 1.606-1.6148 10.729-10.775 8.6.206-1.775 8.6.206-1.775 8.6.206-1.775 8.774-1.81.65 187.47-188.45 177.891-17.992

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Balot ME

Open \$374.40-374.70 Class: \$373.60-374.10 High: \$374.40-374.90

Platinum: \$378.50 (C220.80) Silver: \$4.74 (E2.835) Palladium: \$115.50 (£69.20)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Close 2.8642-2.8689 \$2.067-52.655 \$2.986-1.0024 \$2.950-1.0024 \$2.950-2.5566 \$257.83-258.14 \$2.469-2.15.20 \$1.0.765-10.775 \$2.658-8.6727-1.165-11.185 \$1.884-518.165 \$1.787-17.992 \$1.627-2.1676-2.795 \$1.984-188.165 \$1.

	Nikkei Average 21418.25 (+124.66)
1	Hong Kong: Hang Seng 13485_33 (+245.94)
ıdget	Amsterdam: EOE index627.10 (+3.83)
	Sydney: AO 2382.0 (+12.7)
igh	Frankfurt: 2810.64 (+11.45)
ugu -	Singapore: 22(9.88 (+14.19)
pecialeyes 4p cheaper at Optical Express, its rival,	Brussels: [10382.32 (+45.25)
made an offer of 6p a	Paris: cac-40 z275.08 (-2.06)
at £1.9 million. The deal	Zurich: ska Gen
f Specialeyes, accounting Imost 20 per cent of the	London: FT 30 2833.0 (+4.4) FT 100 4068.4 (+) 3.88
y. Half-year figures from Jarvis, chairman of the	FT 100 4068.4 (+)3.8) FTSE Mid 250 4423.4 (+).1) FTSE 350 2017.7 (+5.5)
rowing Jarvis Hotels, David Thomas, deputy executive, were well re-	FTSE Eurotrack 100 1858.19 (+4.32) FT All-Share 1988.83 (+5.1)] FT Non Financials 2075.4 (+0.8)
d. The price added 4½p 1½p. The group is target	FT Fixed Interest 116.83 (+0.29) FT Govt Secs 94.83 (+0.09) Raymins 45150
hree new hotels in the d half.	SEAQ Volume
ce Computers slumped 22's pafter plunging into	US\$ 1.6726 (-0.0006) German Mark 2.5549 (+0.0130) Exchange Index 93.2 (+0.4)
d and deciding not to pay dend. The group made a	Bank of England official close (4pm) E-ECU
ast year of £5.13 million ared with a surplus of 746 the year before.	RPI 153.6 Oct (2.7%) Jan 1987=100 RPIX 153.6 Oct (3.3%) Jan 1987=100

- 14 Jardinerie Ints (114) 1225 Orientai Restaurants 23812 Scot Highland Htis 1381

AG Hldgs n/p (134) 101

RISES:	: ` `
Bluebird Tays	190p (+125p)
Azlan	605p (+29p)
Scotia	610p (+20p)
Com Union	675p (+19p)
Avon Rubber	687p (+11p)
FALLS:	
Danka Bs Sys	600p (-35p)
Dixons Gp	550'zo (-20p)
Courtaulds	(مو'131-) 403p (-131
Airtours	668'-p (-14p)
Aroos	767'so (-13n)

Closing Prices Page 27

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	Brit Gas 14,700	
	Brit Steel 10,900	Repters 3. Rolls Royce 4.
	Burmah Csti 412	
	Burton 9,800	
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143 Lloyds TSB

Not the utility tax

THE Chancellor did not need a pump-priming Budget; with a £16 billion windfall in prospect from building society conversions next year it was hardly necessary to arrange a consumer. boom. If only half of that found its way into the consumer economy it would be worth four times the Chancellor's budget tax cuts. Nevertheless, the Government has found a way to raise revenue, steal Labour's thunder and stick

pins in an industry the public loves to hate. Closing tax loopholes is always popular but measures to reduce capital allowances on longlife plant and equipment will primarily hit utilities, principally the water industry, which has the biggest plans to build long-term assets. If not a windfall tax, it will do as good a job and for longer. Water companies currently pay little tax, barring ACT on dividends, owing to rolled up losses and historic capital allow-

ances. However, reducing the allowance from 25 per cent to 6 per cent will be a serious blow to companies making new investment. It will also have an adverse effect on the leasing industry: major capital projects and new equipment (aircraft and petrochemical plants for example) are increasingly financed by banks who take the tax breaks and in return offer cheaper finance.

Clearly, the Chancellor sees no need to offer tax breaks to banks already bulging with profits. But there is an interesting lacunae in his plans. Ships and trains are excluded from the measure, no doubt to the relief of P&O and Railtrack. Having recently privatised the rail industry it would be mean to hammer it so quickly with a bigger tax bill. At least Railtrack now has no excuse to continue underspending on infrastructure.

Pearson

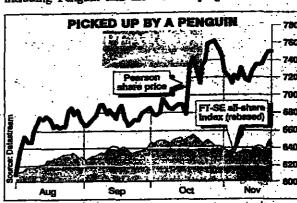
IS PEARSON finally get-ting the message? The \$336 million acquisition of Putnam Berkley, the American publisher of such best-selling authors as Tom Clancy and Dick Francis, is a small move in the right direction. Pearson has been fighting on too many fronts, but now seems to have come round to the idea that its resources are best devoted to publish-

ing and television. Nevertheless, it has a long way to go before it can call itself a media group, even in the loosest sense. Too many extraneous businesses still clutter the balance sheet. Mindscape, the disastrous computer games company, is showing few signs of recovery and no amount of tinkering will make it fit neatly with the rest of the group. Even a

sale at a loss would enhance Pearson's earnings. Other obvious misfits are Lazard, the merchant bank, and Tussauds, the wax museum. Worthy businesses in their own right, Lazards and Tussauds would no doubt fetch a good price.

The restructuring would focus Pearson on publishing. including Penguin and the

Financial Times, and TV production. The question is whether Marjorie Scardino. the incoming chief executive. has the will to take on the vested interests within Pearson. Otherwise, it will continue to behave like an investment trust. Investors should wait to hear the sound of breaking eggs before buying.



Severn Trent

HAVING been thwarted in its attempt to expand by taking over South West Water, Severn Trent has decided to shrink. The company yesterday ruled out further attempts at big acquisitions and instead announced a buyback of up to 10 per cent of its shares. That sentiment is understandable in the light of regulatory prohibition on the creation of monster water companies. But Severn Trent may find it politically difficult to pursue the small is beautiful strategy too far.

The buyback is unlikely to be popular with anyone exers will ask why the company is ploughing £250 million into the stock market instead of using the money to fix its

Severn has had some success in reducing leakage. One in five rather than one in four

company can justify complacency. Profit figures show that Severn can live with the present price control regime. Cost savings have increased and easily offset any extra spending on improving the service. But Severn is still vulnerable to customer demands that a larger part of the cash pile should be used to prevent future sprinkler bans. Using a wide-nozaled hose to shower shareholders with cash will never be popular.

Jarvis Hotels

JARVIS Hotels has not made the most scintillating of deshares were floated at 175p in June - enjoying a brief premium - but have languished below this price ever since.

Jarvis has suffered from the City's growing distillu-sionment with the hotel sector - although unlike rivals

ates in the crowded and less exciting regional mid-market sector. But as the results yesterday show, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with Jarvis's business. The company succeeded in achieving increases in occupancy raies and yield and was able to meet expectations of a 25 per. cent rise in clean profits. Jarvis is also working

hard on improving its branding. Its hotel package brands are aimed at attack ing new customers and Jarvis claims they have helped to drive growth. The com-pany is also developing add-on brands such as the Sebastian Coe leisure clubs and restaurant and bar at the hotels. On fundamentals the shares look cheap, but with the City in an unforgiving mood towards comnanies such as Jarvis, it is not clear that the shares are likely to do much in the near

s of water are being lost the moment. But this is dly a level at which the	least able to make	it was at future. it to the ny oper- EDITED BY	CARL MORTISHET
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ark 5.8630-5.8650	AMER COOP 915 925	Eastern Corp 68 68	Otyx Energy Co 21
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iny 1.5270-1.5280	Abbott Labs Sol. 57	Emerson Elec 99, 99, Engelbard Corp 19, 19,	Owens Corning 41's PER Corp 45's
Kong 7.7317-7.7327	Advanced Micro 24's 24's	Entron Corp 47 47	PPG Industries 60%
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ore 1.4008-1.4018 .	Allied Signal 73, 73,	First BR Sys 72' 72', First Union Rhy 10', 10'	Pull Corp 25' - Panter Hannella 41' -
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tand 1.2930-1.2940	Amer Brancis 485, 487,	Ford Motor 32, 32	Pennzoli 55'ı
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	AZDET EXPRESS 51 5%	Gap Inc Del 17, 3P,	Prizer & Uppha 374
	Amer Goal Corp 40 40	Gencorp 174 174	Phelps Dodge 715
	Amer Home Pr 624 614 Amer Ind 1147 1147	Gen Dynamics 73', 75 Gen Electric 102', 102',	Phillip Month 101 x
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or the super-rich, hotel

industry giants and

is a once in a lifetime

auction opportunity. The Exclusive chain - 17 of the world's

most famous hotels — is up for

grabs over the next two months

as Granada clears out assets

that it deems superfluous, acquired as part of the £3.9 billion

Granada, the leisure and

media company where Gerry

Robinson is chairman, has

always maintained that it is more interested in the econo-

mies of scale and branding

potential of the mid-market hotels - the Posthouse, Crest and Heritage chains - that it

gained from the takeover. Be-sides, it needs to raise cash to

reduce the interest bill on its

huge debt pile. Granada sees hotels such as the Grosvenor

House in London, the George V

in Paris and the Ritz in Madrid

as "trophies", believing that the

huge investment in staff and buildings needed to provide top

quality service cannot be justi-

fied in terms of returns on

capital.
That attitude has not, how-

ever, dampened the enthusiasm

of a huge range of surtors keen

to add the prestige of a five star hotel to their portfolios. When

the auction was first begun in

the summer, around 70 bids

were posted to Lazard Brothers,

the merchant bank acting for

Granada. The number has

been whittled down to a dozen

cluding some of the world's wealthlest men, such as Alwaleed bin Tala bin Abdul-

lah, a nephew of King Fahd of

Saudia Arabia, and Prince Jefri.

brother of the Sultan of Brunei.

Hotel groups such as IIT Sheraton and Marriott Interna-

Mandarin Oriental, the

Hong Kong hotel group owned

by Jardine Matheson, became the first confirmed buyer last

week when Granada accepted

its £86 million offer for the

Hyde Park Hotel in London,

day before Granada unveiled a

sparkling set of results, was

carefully timed. The hotel was

regarded as one of the easiest to sell, benefiting from its fashion-

able Knightsbridge location, freehold status and the added

glamour of its Marco Pierre White restaurant. But the price,

some El6 million above book

value, still impressed the City and suggested that Granada

would be able to sell the whole chain for much more than its

nominal book value of £802

But it is becoming clear that

Granada's decision to dispose

of the hotels individually - to

maximise the price of the chain

is creating complications.
 The hotels are hardly of uni-

form quality and the company

has hinted that in certain cases

— the Hotel Bristol in Warsaw

or the Palazzo della Fonte in

Italy, for instance — it may have

to adopt a "buy one at full price,

Concern is growing that even

the sale of the Grosvenor House

in London -- with 595 rooms, by

far the largest in the portfolio -

is proving more difficult than expected. The Grosvenor House is located on Park Lane

and possesses a 1,500-seat

Great Hall - known in the

hotel trade as "the elephant's

garage" -- which once served as

a skating rink. But the sale is

complicated by the fact that the

Grosvenor also owns 185 apart-ments and is estimated to need

around £50 million in capital

expenditure to update the facili-

ties. The Grosvenor has a book

value of about £300 million but ,

get one cheap" strategy.

tional are still in the hunt.

or so genuine contenders, in-

takeover of Forte this year.

Touch of spice for Chancellor

WHILE the Mirror was running wild with the contents of Ken Clarke's red briefcase, the Chancellor chose to round off his evening with a curry. In spite of his penchant for chips, chips and more chips, it was some spice that the Chancellor was after on the eve of the Budget. Not a million miles from the Treasury, he headed straight for a curry house in Pimlico. Is that why he looked so red about the gills yesterday

Tapping in

BEARING in mind that the Treasury's Internet site was under siege last year, imagine the hit that it took yesterday. Even before the Chancellor stood up to speak, anoraks were tapping into the Treasury after Piers Morgan made the first bit. Last year. about 2.500 people accessed the site in the first. week of the Budget. Yesterday was the first time that the Treasury enclosed a computer disk with the 2,800 press packs sent out, in the hope of wearing recipients off the reams of paper that have a propen-

Early opening

THE recently refurbished George & Vulture opened its doors early yesterday to allow for the Budget. Within a quarter of an hour, 60 City types were at the bar that was once propped up by Charles Dickens. They all wanted a rare steak — the fastest thing on the menu -- and a lot were drinking lemon-ade or colas," says the landord, Ray Hali.



Groundless view

KEN BATES has put his name down for the most expensive apartment in Chelsea Village. The sheepskin-clad football chairman has reserved a £775,000 penthouse being built next to Chelsea's Stamford Bridge stadium. Bates, who has only recently put his farm in Buckingham-shire up for sale, is the third person to have reserved one of the new apartments. Unfortu-nately for Bates, his vast shack next door to the Shed will not have a view of the football

PR panic

CITY press relations officers were panie-stricken sterday over reports that the Oxo Tower Restaurant. had gone up in flames. Not least the Warburgs whiz-kids who have started trading tables at the trendy haunt. Word has it that there was a small fire in the kitchen that knocked out the Oxo Brasserie, but the restaurant was soon back in business. So much relief at Salomon Brothers, which holds its legendary annual client bash there next

Lucky number

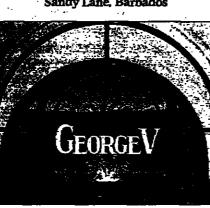
A good omen for the new owners of the £86 million Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park. The Knightsbridge hotel is 88 years old. a lucky number in Feng Shui. Let's hope the eights bring them better times than naughty Nick

MORAG PRESTON

Exclusive hotels portfolio valued at £960m by Christie's

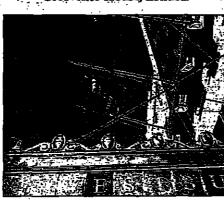
The seriously rich queue for Granada's sale of the century





George V. Paris





Christie's price tag was closer to

£375 million when it conducted

its own valuation. Chelsfield.

the property company chaired

by Elliott Bernerd, is rumoured

to be the most likely buyer. But Granada may remove the hotel

from the market if offers do not

reach £350 million, some ana-

The Christie's valuation,

made at the height of the bid

battle, is proving especially

vexing for Granada. Some hotel

industry observers have argued

lysts believe.

Gerry Robinson needs cash for Granada that because the hotel market has improved since the valuation. Granada should be able to command at least the £960 million price Christie's imposed on the Exclusive portfolio. But Granada insists that the £801 million book value is the mea-suring stick it is using for performance and has been angered by the rumours that a ailure to reach the higher Christie's prices is throwing the whole auction into doubt.

On Monday the speculation

resulted in Granada shares falling back slightly, although the company insists that the disposal programme is on track to meet the company's end-ofyear deadline. Granada will probably seek to calm market nerves with the announcement of another sale in the next few days. The Westbury, in Mayfair, London, is hotly tipped to be the next disposal, and the acquisitive Chelsfield again heads the contenders - having apparently seen off interest

although Christie's valued it at £40 million, and it is the higher figure that is seen as the most likely sale price. It made operating profits of 543 million on a turnover of 59.9 million last year. It has one major drawback — a 22-year lease — although Chelsfield is believed to be negotiating with AMP Asset Management, the Australian fund management group which holds a 900-year leasehold on the property, to extend the lease. The Westbury in New York is also part of the portfolio and on the sale list. The disposal of Sandy Lane, the playground of the rich and famous in Barbados, is also understood to be near completion. Dermot Desmond, the

from Ong Beng Seng, the Singaporean hotel magnate.

The 244-room hotel has a book

value of around £33 million,

Irish investor who owns London City Airport, is understood to have made an offer of around £40 million, significantly above the book value of around 127 million. The hotel commands some of the highest room rates in the world at Christmas, with guests paying up to £2,000 a night. Sandy Lane was also a favourite of Sir Rocco Forte until he lost the bid battle with Granada.

ranada should also have no problem selling the George V in Paris. The hotel is arguably the most prestigious in the Exclusive portfolio, a Paris landmark since the 1930s and able to offer a presidential suite even to its customers. Not surprisingly, it has attracted the attention of the seriously rich, with Prince Jefri of Brunei considered among the front-runners. Private buyers have the advantage of being able to hotel's potential because they have no shareholders to answer to and some can afford to take control of a hotel such as the George V simply to satisfy vanity. The hotel has a book value of £92 million and is expected to attract offers only slightly higher than this price.

Sea Containers, which is building its hotel chain, has been linked with the Ritz in Madrid, situated near the Prado museum. The hotel has a book value of around £45 million but is valued by Christie's at closer to £54 million. Sea Containers is also rumoured to be eyeing the Eden in Rome.

A number of hotels, however, are likely to be sacrificed for the sake of maintaining prices on the prize assets. The Plaza Athenee in Paris has a book value of £42 million, but with only a 12-year lease is unlikely to fetch anything like that. The Bristol in Warsaw, meanwhile, may have a famous past serving as the watering hole for journalists awaiting Hitler's invasion of Poland — and has been substanially revamped, but is tarnished by its unfashionable location.

lnevitably, some of the participants in the bids will be isappointed. But Granada has held back one remaining trophy — its stake in Savoy Hotels. The company says that it will not start the sale of its 68 per cent stake, valued at around £260 million, until the Exclusive auction is completed. The disposal is likely to prove as tortuous as the disposal of the lesser hotels in the Exclusive portfolio - because the Wontner family retain voting control of the company.

ALASDAIR MURRAY AND LUCY MCDONALD



Meanwhile, back in the real world

have adopted a new slogan: "Stop the world, I want to get off?" The British worry over a Budget which will surely prove trivial; if not, it will be mad. Across the Channel, EMU is just another obsessive distraction. One postulant member after another condemns itself to a recession which will make the whole project impossible - or at least ought to make it so; but no time is left to talk about the important realities: the impending crisis in the Middle East, the rather closer threat of a financial crash and, in the background, the menacing rise in unemployment. The first is a nightmare, so heads in the sand are perhaps a rational response; but the second and third ought to concern the financial world, to the exclu-

sion of Euro-fantasies. For a start, what is going on? Only a naive moralist will be surprised that equity markets are strong while the world economy is weak; that is the normal consequence of a purely monetary reflation, and is indeed the mechanism through which easy money, and thus cheap capital, can lead to an economic recovery. As long as the process is reasonably benevolent results we saw in the US, until very recently. This, though, is something different. The Euro-recession begins to look almost as obstinate as that in Japan, and even the US economy gets softer at every reading; but the bull market has

turned into something more. Over stimulus? Not at first sight. The actual money supply figures remain orderly almost everywhere, but there are plenty of other signs that monetary ease (now the rule everywhere except in London) has turned to overkill. It can be seen in the growth of central bank reserves (the ultimate high-powered money): worldwide dollar holdings are now rising at some \$150 billion a year. If this is not seen lower down the scale of monetary evolution, the reason could be the most basic of all: poor demand.

ow many unsolicit-ed loan offers have you turned down recently? These are one sign of what Jim Grant, the persistent Wall Street bear, has dubbed "yield grope" -the ever wilder search for a decent margin over Libor. It can be seen on the macro scale in the vanishing of yield differentials — Italian bond yields allowing almost nothing for probable accidents; a mere 17 basis points between Chilean BBB grade

grade, down from 50-odd as recently as May. It can be seen on the micro scale in the offer in New York of 100 per cent unsecured loans for liposuction. Liposuction loans also appeared at the peak of the late-80s credit blowout; but then, as Jim Grant remands us. fatties could get only two thirds of the fee on credit. This kind of folly could lead to bank failures, as it did recently in the US and Japan; but you may well hope that central banks have proved (except in Japan) that they can contain any likely disaster.

Perhaps. Meanwhile, are they ushing on a string, as Ceynes first put it? Yes, to judge by consumer credit, retreat of the commodity speculators. But if you leave enough loose string all over the floor, somebody is bound to trip up.

market. "Bull market" is too weak a term for Wall Street, where the whole market, already well into record territory, goes on rising, often by more than a full percentage point each trad-ing day. This is not buying, but feeding frenzy - the kind of speculative climax which precedes every major crash. This is because crashes are not provoked by pessimists: they have been frightened for months. They come when prices rise fast enough to frighten even the optimists. That may not be just yet; indeed, prices may not be dramatically lower after the crash than they were, say, three months ago. But they will be dramatically down from whatever peak they are destined to reach; and probably quite soon. So what, do I hear you

mutter? We had a crash in 1987, and that hardly disturbed the real world at all. Why not the same again? For a lot of possible reasons, unfortunately. In 1987 we were well in to a strong, worldwide economic recovery; not this time. Ordinary voters were involved mainly through their pension funds; this time, ordinary Americans have a direct stake in the indices through their enormous holdings in the mutual funds. Governments were not then worried enough about jobs to have started the present stealthy race to devalue, this will make cooperation a fraught affair next time round

And remember: it could be much worse than 1987 without even approaching the scale of 1929. Complacency, and even inattention, are surely out of order.

Side-betting on lottery could add value to the draw

the Betting Office Licensees

Sir. Pennington may be justified in describing the nation's Saturday evening (soon to be Wednesday as well) preoccu-pation as an institution (November 20), but your writer's view that side-betting on the outcome would damage the National Lottery has no basis

For seven years, Irish bookmakers have been betting on their lottery numbers and there is no evidence to suggest that this secondary activity has been detrimental to the republic's twice-weekly game. In fact, examination of the situation there suggests that far from diverting turnover away from. being mooted, and with other the lottery, side-betting adds new games certain to be intro-

nomic View, November 8) says

that the [Maastricht] treaty

cannot be changed. Like any

other treaty, it can, and there

are diplomatic conventions en-

abling this to be done. Had the 1975 referendum

resulted in a "no" vote Britain

would have had to withdraw.

its consent to the 1973 Treaty of

Accession and thus to the

provisions of the Treaty of

Rome, the pages of the history

From the Director-General of value to the draw by injecting an extra element of fun and

entertainment. For those unfamiliar with the practice, side-betting con-sists of bookmakers offering odds about particular numbers being drawn. Thus a betting-office customer can purchase his lottery ticket in the hope of landing the jackpot and add interest to the draw by having a bet on one, two, three, four or five, but not six.

of the numbers selected. in reality, such is the lure of the jackpot that the lottery has nothing to fear from any other form of gambling. In contrast, with a mid-week draw to be introduced in February, with a E100,000 scratchcard prize duced by Camelot, it is the gambling sector's established operators who have much to

E BOSINESSY TO ESTATE OF THE STATE OF THE ST

be anxious about. in the case of betting offices, some 700 outlets and 3,400 jobs have been lost as a direct consequence of the lottery and many more are under threat. Under such circumstances, a removal of the ban on sidebetting, thereby allowing bookmakers to introduce a product which would be complementary to the lottery, is the least the Government can

do to help. Yours faithfully, TOM KELLY (Director-General, Betting Office Licensees Association), Francis House, Francis Street, SW1.

Diplomatic conventions enable Maastricht treaty to be changed From Mr John Parfitt Sir, Professor Marris (Ecobooks are littered with such

instances. A serious objection to the proposals for stage three of EMU is that member states must give an open-ended commitment to pay "fines" if they stray from the Maastricht criteria, for us this could mean billions as well as our current net payments to the EC of some £4 billion per annum. It would be constitutionally im-

proper for ministers to agree

to such a commitment: if the

House of Commons refused to

paid and the enterprise would

collapse. Interestingly, all this parallels the situation in 1673 when the threat of witholding sup ply forced Charles II to withdraw from the more odious parts of his understandings given in secret to the French in 1670. Plus ça change . . . Yours faithfully JOHN PARFTIT, St Andrews, New Street,

Will Lloyd's take lead or follow? From Mr John Pincham

Sir. The Association of Lloyd's Members warns names underwriting for 1997 to exercise extreme caution.

Lloyd's may break even if there are no serious Eagle Star makes a fur-ther £91 million provision for environmental claims in the US. The problem has not

gone away. Must Lloyd's collapse and the world market implode before standards of prudent conduct are agreed and imposed and retrospective legislation is repealed and banned? Will Lloyd's take the lead or follow the dodo? Yours faithfully

JOHN PINCHAM (County Councillor for Claygate and Hinchley Wood), 35 Lodge Close, Stoke D'Abernon. Cobham,

> Letters to the Business section of The Times can be sent 0171-782 5112.

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ABB awarded \$270m

ABB, the electrical engineering company, has won a \$270 million order to extend a combined-cycle power station near

Grimsby. Humber Power, which is co-owned by several

partners, will start to extend its South Humber Bank station

ABB built the first phase of Humber Bank in 1994. When

the extension is complete Humber will lift its output from 750

megawatts to 1,260 megawatts. Although there has been industry disappointment about the speed at which new gas-

fired stations have started to feed into the system, there is now

evidence of a pick-up in power plant construction. The

National Grid has planning applications for more than 6,500

megawatts of stations. The overcapacity this will produce in electricity generation should start to bring down power

prices, industry watchers believe. The electricity regulator

has been criticised for pinning large hopes on electricity prices falling in response to an influx of new generators.

Rec to read gas meters

NORTHERN ELECTRIC, the regional company fighting a hostile US takeover, is to move into gas meter reading in a £1 million deal with TransCo. British Gas's pipelines business. Its

meter-reading subsidiary will cover more than 11.000 industrial and commercial customers in a two-year operation.

The arrangement is the first by TransCo to introduce competition into parts of the gas industry. The regulator requires it to offer parts of its operations to rival businesses.

SHARPE & FISHER, the building supplies company, has raised £5.1 million through the sale of two property freeholds

and a plot of land. It more than doubled its money on the sale of surplus land at its Cheltenham depot, which fetched £1.06

million against a book value of £400,000. It made at least

£200,000 profit on the freehold of a branch in Chippenham

sold for £735,000, and £445,000 on selling property in

AMBERIEY GROUP, the minerals and chemicals concern that recently acquired Bousfield Printing, saw pre-tax profits rise to £2.25 million, from £920,000, in the six months to

September 30, on sales up to £21.6 million (£7.69 million). Demand for Masterbarch, its new solid pigment product, was strong and production is to be doubled. Earnings were 74 per

cent higher at 2.41p a share (1.39p); the interim dividend rose 33

Worcester for £3.35 million. All money is due this year.

Amberley advances

S&F sales raise £5m

next year and anticipates it being in operation by 1998.

power station order

Severn Trent to splash out £250m on share buyback

BY OLIVER AUGUST

company, will spend £250 million to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares even though one in five pints of water still

back, saying that leakage had dropped to 19 per cent, from 24 per cent, since last November. and was on track to meet the target of 12 per cent by 2000.

added to the £150 million investment announced last year, with the bulk used to improve

the company for driving down and "wasting" £4.5 million of customers' money on the unsuccessful bid for South West

vironment Secretary, said: pany is rolling in money is their decision to have a share

ment still isn't satisfactory."

buyback. Yet capital invest-Mr Dobson suggested that the new discretionary investment announced yesterday

at Buckingha His Royal The Duke of BUCKINGH ety, this mon

The Duke of tron. will p who have ac dard in The Award; and and preside Trustees of burgh's Aw Palace at 12.3 Member of ety of Civil E dinner at th Smithfield s The Prince Cookridge

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zens Advice

BIRTHS: A

November 26: SEVERN TRENT, the water this morning The Earl of Her Majesty Address from t leaks from its pipes.

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and Trustee, Duke of Edinb

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BUCKINGH/

November 26:

International

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a meeting of

London.

The Duke of

His Royal H

ern's abortive bid for South West Water, the neighbouring utility. Bid costs were £4.5 million. the company disclosed yesterday. Severn defended the buy-

Spending plans worth a further E70 million had been

water supply, the company However, Labour criticised capital investment to the lowest level since privatisation

Frank Dobson. Shadow En-"Further proof that the com-

Vic Cocker, chief executive of Severn Trent, which has lifted interim profits to £197 million. from £189 million simply have been brought forward from the second half of the year. He said: "In fact, if Severn Trent invest the same amount during the second half as they did in the first half, they will have invested less than at any time

since privatisation. Severn Trent said that inter-

million, from £189 million, in the six months to September The interim dividend rises to 10.5p. from 9.2p. Richard Ireland, chairman,

said that the group would seek opportunities for growth in the waste industry in the UK and on the Continent, and intended to develop its presence in im pre-tax profits rose to £197 the world market for utility-

related services. However, he ruled out a bid for a UK regional electricity company. Mr Ireland said that the

capital requirement for business growth was "relatively modest". He said: "A repurchase of share capital will provide a more appropriate capital structure for the group, in-crease earnings per share and,

consistent with the policy of re-ducing dividend cover to around two times earnings by 2000, enhance future

In addition, the company will seek to renew the authority to repurchase shares at the annual meeting in July 1997.

Cleanaway picks | Readicut worried by strong up German waste pound despite profits rise firm for DM135m

BY PAUL DURMAN

management company that is 50 per cent owned by GKN, is expanding into Germany through the DM135 million purchase of Mabeg, which runs a waste collection and recycling business in the north and

CLEANAWAY, the waste

west of the country. The move follows the chase by Cleanaway of two waste businesses in The Netherlands in the past couple of years.

Mabeg is currently owned by Heitkamp and Strabag. two large German construction companies. It employs about 600 people and has annual sales of about DM150 million.

About 30 per cent of its business is in sorting and recycling — which, GKN said, was one of Mabeg's key

Legislation has made Germany one of the world's most environmentally ad-

vanced markets. Gerben Westra, Cleanaway's chief executive, said that Mabeg was an excellent fit and provided an ideal platform for further expansion. Cleanaway, which is based

in Brentwood in Essex, claims to be Britain's largest waste management business. ~ at £130 million, putting it

ahead of Biffa, owned by Severn Trent, and the independently quoted Shanks & McEwan.

With the addition of Mabeg. and with Leto and Mirec in The Netherlands, Cleanaway will have total sales approaching £250 million.

GKN owns Cleanaway jointly with Brambles Industries, its Australian joint venture partner for many years. Cleanaway is a global brand. but GKN has no involvement with the Brambles-controlled businesses in Australia and

By Fraser Nelson

THE strength of sterling is threatening the tentative recovery in Britain's manufacturing sector, according to Charles Goodwin, chairman of Readicut International.

The carpet and yarn com-pany yesterday voiced fears that the power of the pound was undermining its competitive edge in continental Europe and dampening overall demand from overseas.

Readicut reported pre-tax profits up 20 per cent to £3.32 million for the six months to

OPTICAL EXPRESS has

launched an agreed £1.92 million takeover bid for

Specialeyes, an optical retail-

With 20 shops, Optical Ex-

press is the largest indepen-

dent chain of opticians in

er with 63 stores nationwide.

September 30, helped by a £1.18 million contribution from Alan Farrow, its latest acquisition. Earnings per share were 1.12p (0.9lp), and a maintained interim dividend of 0.63p is due on February 10. Mr Goodwin said that

growth had been held back by production problems in three of its main subsidiaries. The launch of Drake Extrusion, its polypropene -extrusion met a slow start as sales failed to compensate for the £3 million start-up costs.

David Moulsdale.

The company has received

acceptances in respect of the 19.8 per cent interest held by

directors of Specialeyes. The

offer is of 6p a share, against a

closing price on Monday of

Specialeyes yesterday re-

0171-782 7344

Stonehouse Battye's, its Yorkshire woollen yarn site, it incurred a loss of £1.3 million after profits were drained by problems stemming from its attempt to merge its three weaving sites. Restructuring costs also held back Firth Carpets, its

carpet-fitting division, which suffered a loss of £657,000. Mr Goodwin said the company had now overcome most of its internal problems, but gave warning that the success. payable on January 24. million start-up costs.

Of its exports would be greatly affected by monetary policy.

before tax for the six months

to May 31 and said there had

been no further improvement

in trading in the second half.

Specialeyes, said that the

company had experienced dif-

ficult trading conditions in the

first half. "This has resulted

Tim Francy, chairman of

Optical sets sights on Specialeyes

Jarvis aims to keep on growing

quoted company

He added that the company had a further E35 million to spend and would feel comfort-able with gearing rising from its present level of 28 per cent to about 40 per cent.

Overall turnover rose 15 per cent to £61.8 million.

Exceptional charges relating to the flotation in June totalled £5.7 million, including a loan stock interest payment of 15 million and 1755,000 as a management bonus.

beverage spending.

The company is working on expanding its leisure brands, with the Embassy Leisure weekend break brand now available through Lunn Poly

Scandia at Gatwick, to its portfolio in the first half. Mr Jarvis said that trading had continued strongly, with an increase in food and beverage sales. The shares rose

JARVIS HOTELS aims to add a further three hotels during the second half as it continues expansion in its first year as a

John Jarvis, chairman, said that the company would con-centrate on individual acquisitions, but, with consolidation likely in the hotel sector, it was willing to consider suitable small chains.

The company unveiled a 24

per cent rise in profits for the 28 weeks to October 12, excluding tax and exceptional charges, to £13.9 million.

Occupancy levels rose to 70.5 per cent, while the room yield increased 14 per cent, to £29.87. Mr Jarvis said the recovery in the sector was now spreading from London to the regions and he believed there was room to push yields higher. Margins for hotel trading profits tose from 32p to 35p per pound of turnover. Jarvis intends to add a further three Sebastian Coe sports clubs, which now number 15, to its hotels. The company will also work on branding its restaurant facilities to improve food and

travel agents.

Jarvis now owns 65 hotels, having added three hotels, including the £8.6 million

31 zp. to 1691 zp. compared with a float price of 1750. A militien interior dividend a of alphies

position, which prevents the

company from completing

plans outlined in the interim statement," he explained. Should the offer fail, he said,

there would have to be a

major restructuring, which

could have an adverse effect

on shareholder value.

Trace slumps into red TRACE COMPUTERS has plunged into the red after exceptional charges forced a pre-tax loss of £5.14 million (£483,000

per cent, to 0.4p per share, due on February 21.

profit) in the year to May 31. Trace suffered a £3.21 million revaluation charge on its head office, a £789,000 loss on its sale of Proteus, its software distribution arm, and a £210,000 charge in reorganisation costs. Losses per share were 35.9p (2.53p profit). The company, which paid no interim dividend, is passing the final (1.55p total).

Bearing Power warning

BEARING POWER INTERNATIONAL, the distributor of tax profits for the year to September 30 would fall substantially below current expectations of between £1.6 million and £1.8 million. This would arise because of a new accounting method of stock valuation, agreed with the company's auditors. Directors expect to recommend an unchanged final dividend of 1.56p a share.

Joint venture ruling

THE European Commission is expected to block a joint venture between Saint-Gobain, the French glass manufacturer, Germany's Wacker-Chemie and NOM, the Dutch state-owned investment firm, in the silicon carbide sector. The Commission's competition directorate-general has concluded the deal should be blocked because it would give Saint-Gobain a dominant position within the European

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

ROYAL COLLEGE **OF MUSIC**

Prince Consort Road London SW7 2BS NOTICE is bereby given the

ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Corporation will be held at the College on Tuesday 17 December 1990 at 3.45 pm to receive a Report and Statement of Accounts from the Counci attend as a Graduate shoul apply by 9 December 1990 to The Clerk of the Council at the above address, furnishing details of his/b

security and voting authorities may be made W M Morgan Clerk to the Council

claim to membership, so the

the necessary papers.

THE INSOLVENCY BULES 1986
DALLAM CONSTRUCTIONS
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Nigel Remark Edmondson Co.
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MICHAEL BENINETT

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FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be contract to beaution.

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21 Percenter 1996
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LIMOTES
Principal Trading Address: Formerly, Suite 8. 1 Leicenser Place,
Landon WCZ
Company Number 2359979
NOTICE 15 HERISH GAVER, pursunset to Section 98 of the insolvency Art 1986, that a meeting
of the creditors of the abovenamed company with the haid at
Hill Homes, 1 Little New Street
London HCA on 5 December 1996
at 11.20 am for the purposes
mentioned in Sections 99 to 107
of the Insolvency Art 1986,
james Robert Deuminond Smith
of Delaitne & Togethe, of PO Box
S10. Rull Rouse, 1 Little New
Street, London BCAA 3TR will
provide creditors from of change
with such information concerning the company's affairs in they
may resteembly require. Creditors requiring this information
should context in the first
lessingly Paul Bulley on 0171
303 4502.
Datos: 20 Newember 1996
BY OZDES OF TRE BOARD
Sarry Milaton
Directors AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that you must within 7 days bross that you must within 7 days bross the publication of the advertisement backsive of the day of sach publication, acknowledge service of the sald With by completing a family of days of the sald with by completing a family of the sald with by completing a family of the sald with the sal Director
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Trading Name: Repton Invest-Strood, Rochester, East. MP2 4Th Plaintiff's Solicitors DATED the 25th day of Nove

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT SESSION 1996-97 IMPERIAL COLLEGE

Notice is hereby given that application is being made to Parliament by the Imperial College of Science, lecthology and Medicine (hereinalter referred to as "imperial College"), the Charing Cross and Westmaster Medical School and the Royal Postgraduate Medical School (hereinafter referred to as "the Medical Schools") for leave to introduce in the present Session a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") under the above name or short title for the purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

To unite the Medical Schools with Imperial College. To transfer to Imperial College all rights, properties and liabilities of the Medical Schools.

To make provision for the saving of agreements, deeds, actions, etc. and for the construction of bequests, etc. in respect of the Medical Schools and the National Heart and Lung Institute. To provide for various powers or rights of the Medical Schools to nominate members of certain bodies to be transferred to Imperial College.

To enact provisions incidental to or consequential upon the above mentioned purposes.

On and after the 4th day of December 1996 a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof may be obtained at the price of 50 pence each at Imperial College of Science, fechnology and Medicine. Sherfield Bullding. Exhibition Road, London SW7 2AZ, the Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School, The Reynolds Bullding. St Dunstan's Road, London, W6 8RP and the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Du Cane Road, London, W12 0NN and at the offices of the undersigned Solicitors and Solicitors & Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by deposting a Petition against it in either or both Houses of Parliament. The last date for the deposit of such a Petition in the First House will be 30 january 1997 if the Bill originates in the House of Commons or 6 February 1997 if it originates in the House of Commons or 6 February 1997 if it originates in the House of Cords. Further information may be obtained from the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords or the undersigned Parliamentary Agents. Dated this 27th day of November 1996

2 Serieant's Inn. London, EC4Y ILT. Solicitors

Rees & Freres, 1 The Sanctuary, Westminster, London SW1P 3/1. Solicitors & Parliamentary Association

Brewer to expand after flotation

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

ELDRIDGE, POPE and Co. the family-controlled brewer that is moving to a full stock market listing next month, said yesterday that it is looking to expand aggressively over the coming year.
The company unveiled a 23

per cent increase in full-year profits, to £4.36 million. Turnover rose 11.5 per cent, to £61 million. The retail division increased operating profits by 9.6 per cent, to £6.7 million, on turnover of £31 million, up 7.7 per cent. Pope added a further ten pubs, predominately in the South, during the year.

The company invested £5 million in the division and expects capital expenditure of £10 million this year. Pope wants to convert a further seven pubs to its Fireside Imns brand and is aiming to add two new pubs in London targeted at young drinkers.

The Thomas Hardy brewery, which specialises in contract work, yielded a profit of E544,000 on turnover of E29.9 million in its first year as a separate division. The wine business was restructured during the year and the company said it expected the benefits to come through in this year's results. Christopher Pope, the chair-

man, is to become a nonexecutive chairman, with Jeremy Pope, currently managing director, becoming chief executive. Shares in the company, which is quoted on the USM, rose 1012p, to 254p. The total dividend is raised by 15 per cent, to 5.3p. A final dividend of 3.45p is payable on February 2.

Ceramic cufflinks only £25 a pair, or buy two pairs and save £5,

stylish accessory for any double-cull shirt. They cost just £5 a pair, or £45 for any two pairs, giving a saving of £5.

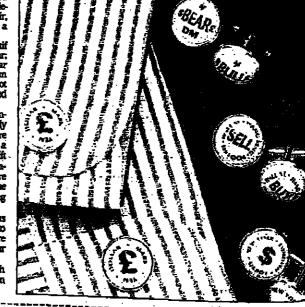
There are four money monif designs available bull and bear, buy and sell pound signs or dollar signs, making them solel for an up-to-date city dealer image — not least because they are such a good

Made of silver plate and ceram-ic, these cuffinks are individually hand craited in the Staffordshire Potteries, and are presented in a smart leatherene and velver gift Shall learned and verve gan-sures 3/4" in diameter so they are substantial enough to keep the heaviest of conton shirt looking good throughout a busy day.

Because they are fun as well as excellent quality and appeal to men of all ages, these cufflinks are a perfect present to have on your Christmas ist.

Orders received by 10th December will be despatched in

time for Christmas



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How newspapers win new readers

was still warm when the fight began to recruit its readers to new allegiances after it was closed down a year ago. Yet a year later it is the right-wing Daily Mail that has most successfully wooed former readers of the left-wing To-

As soon as Today closed, the Daily Mail offered itself free for a week to Today readers. The circulation director Mike Newman bought a list of Today readers and sent them a letter offering delivery of the Mail free for eight days and then for a period at half-price. It was largely the success

of that tactic that pushed sales of the Daily Mail above two million for the first time in 28 years. Britain's newspaper mar ket is the fiercest in the world, but readers have strong loyalties to their chosen papers. So the secret of success lies in persuading them to try a rival. Once tempted, they may decide to

switch permanently. Newspapers have been using two main marketing tactics. The most successful, started by The Sun and The Times and since copied by almost every newspaper group, is reducing the price. Sales of *The Times* have more than doubled and The Daily Telegraph, with a mailshot offering a year's subscription for EL-EL50 a week, says it has recruited more than 100,000 new

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Another tactic is to offer free trials. On Britannia Airways and British Midland flights, there are free copies of The Express. There are free copies of The Times at Forte hotels. Earlier this month there were free copies of the Sunday Mirror and The People at Somerfield supermarkets (which added about 150,000 to their

When advertisers decide where to buy space in news-papers, their decisions are based on sales but particularly on readership and readers'



therefore vital to newspaper ures accurately reflect their market position. The question now being asked by some managements is whether sales at lower rates than cover prices or free copies - known as bulk sales should be counted in the monthly ABC figures. After protests earlier this year, that was why the ABC decided to

> The real quarrel about the ABCs is over bulk sales'

record statistics in separate

columns for sales at full rates, lesser rates, and bulk

Managers at The Times in particular are questioning the Telegraph's October ABC figures which recorded 49 000 sales at a lesser rate based on 10p vouchers — but failed to declare the extra 100,000 cut-price mailshot subscriptions in the lesser rate category. So where did they go, ask Times managers, and why is readership of the Telegraph going down as sales go up?

that free copies on a flight or at a hotel breakfast are probably properly read and Where they differ is over giveaways dumped at supermarkets or petrol stations, which many managers believe are simply thrown

ment, readers did not make positive choices marked by a payment - they were not buyers. So should bulk sales even be counted in the ABCs?

At stake for editors and managements in the battles of the marketeers are important psychological issues. Strip out cut-price and bulk conies and sales of The Daily Telegraph and The Express both slip below a million a day — for the Telegraph from 1,077,000 to 978,000 and for The Express from 1.2 million to 988,000, while The People slips just below two

Among the daily broadsheets, average daily sales at reduced prices have risen in a year from 18,000 to 79,000, with significant increases recorded by The Independent — up from 356 to 10,193 and The Daily Telegraph — up from 1,958 to 49,931. At The Times they have risen from 3.573 to 11.141. Yet readers made positive choices and paid money to buy all these newspapers.

The real quarrel over the ABCs is about bulk sales, which are used by declining papers to prop up circulation and by those on a rising curve to push distribution to new

If bulk sales were removed from the ABCs, The Express would still be selling comfortably more than a million. the Telegraph would be just over at 1,028,000 - but The People would only scrape home at 2,000,782. That, of course, is why so many copies of The People were on offer at Somerfield for nothing and why the bulk sales recorded in the ABCs have been rising so sharply.

The President of South Africa has attacked 'white-controlled' newspapers, Ray Kennedy writes

Mandela blames the press



of as a political saint. President Mandela of South Africa has the very devil of a sharp tongue. Thus it was with feelings of dismay and wariness that 20 of the country's leading black journalists met him at their own request last week.

A few days previously he had accused the "white-controlled conservative media" of getting senior black journalists to do "their dirty work". That followed an earlier broadside

against some black journalists who, he said, "regret we have destroyed white supremacy in this country and who are taking out their venom on the one organisation that has brought about radical changes. They have no concep-tion of the problem facing this

Halfway through its five-year term of office, the African National Congress Government is beginning to come under sharp scrutiny and many people view this as a healthy sign that democracy is beginning to work. For decades of National Party rule, the media — particularly the English-language press — was shackled by more than 100 laws limiting access to information and freedom to publish. some of which are still in place.

Editing a newspaper in South Africa, a former editor once noted, was like walking blindfolded through a

But politicians, whatever their hue, remain sensitive. There was fury from the ANC at a report in The Star, written by one of its black reporters. that Mr Mandela had stunned the party's national executive by saying he had not chosen his successor and that Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, was not his heir apparent.

The Star's report appears to have

pointed out that his successor would be chosen by the party congress, not by him. But The Star reporter's interpretation, based on an unnamed source in the ANC executive, was that it meant

that "the race is on". The four-hour meeting between Mr Mandela and the black journalists was described as robust. Thami Mazwai, chairman of the South African National Editors' Forum, said that the President undertook not to repeat his charges with the proviso that journalists did not overstretch the limit".

Mr Mandela's interpretation of it was more circumspect. "We don't want you to be an ANC mouthpiece. We don't want you to be lap dogs," he said. "As long as the press continues to be controlled by conservative whites, we will continue to have a problem of senior black journalists expressing views that are not in conflict with those of their employers."

aymond Louw, former Editor of the now defunct Rand Daily Mail, which won an international reputation for its courageous campaigning against and exposure of apartheidera outrages, described the situation as

One wonders who is feeding these thoughts to Mandela," he said. "It is quite clear he does not have detailed knowledge of the media, otherwise he would not have made such outrageous

The English-language press has a courageous record of lighting apartheid - in fact, although this appears to be forgotten by many in the ANC, it was one of the few 'white' institutions in the country that fought the apartheid government consistently."

Express axe falls on Monk

FOLLOWING weeks of spec-ulation Ian Monk left The Express this week, to be succeeded by Tessa Hilton, after an internal inquiry into his professional conduct. His abrupt departure from the

post of deputy editor comes almost four weeks after Anita, his Dutch-born wife, was arrested for allegedly trying to sell a stolen copy of Allan Starkie's insalubrious account of the secret life of Sarah Duchess of York to The Sun.

The book, printed secretly in America and Finland, was bought for serialisation for £101,000 by the Daily Mail, a fierce rival of The Express, for which Mr Monk worked previously as an executive editor. This is the latest crisis to sweep The Express: in September about 90 journalists, including Sue Douglas, Editor of the Sunday Express, were made redundant.

Sun downer

CENSORSHIP is not dead on the nation's campuses. The Sun is at the centre of a kerfuffle at Leeds University where students, objecting to the photographs of scantily clad women in the paper, have voted to ban it from the

city's student newspaper. Leeds Student, which was named student newspaper of the year and numbers among its former editors the Daily Mail's supremo Paul Dacre, the BBC's Nicholas Witchell and The Tante's Swa Brisan MacArthur, responded by

printing a mock-up of The Sun on its front page. Beneath the screamer "The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Any More", a story condemned the ban.

NIGEL WRIGHT CONSULTANCY

Newcastle & Edinburgh

Student Union shop. The

patronising move,"
David Smith, the Editor

What crisis?

AFTER shooting to the top of the league table of the nation's most notorious schools for scandal, The Ridings in Halifax has called in a group of PR wizards. Green PR and Marketing is now learning a short. sharp lesson in real crisis management. Talk about shutting the stable door after "We thought if was a very the horse has bolted.

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Expected to be mid 30's to mid 40's

undergoing a period or significant change intough organic individual who has a natural flair for marketing. The candidate should have a successful track record in a marketing role in professional services. The candidate must be an excellent communicator, with a strong personality, who can work effectively at senior management level. This position offers the right individual the opportunity to work within a dynamic and challenging environment. THE REQUIREMENTS

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international marketing plans. To assist with the integration of the company's global marketing services and marketing databases in co-operation, with other international offices.

To manage the Marketing Department effectively to ensure the quality and delivery of the company's registrations, pre qualifications and To develop the Marketing Department as the company's central resource for up-to-date marketing expertise and marketing innovations.

To provide staff with advice, support materials and guidance on marketing presentations.

To promote and develop a consistent corporate image through coordination of the company's presentations, corporate literature and

representatives in the major international funding agencies.

To act as the company's central point of contact for corporate

Preferably will have had at least 2 years' experience in co-ordinating a company's marketing effort in an international context, and should appreciate the practicalities of global marketing. Preferably will have experience and contacts with major international funding agencies; private financiers, contractors and

Should have experience of leading a team. Should be computer literate.

Please write enclosing a full CV, and covering letter, setting out how you match these requirements and how you could contribute in this role.

Please indicate current remuneration details and a contact telephone number. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

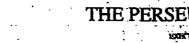
Solver up to £10 000.

Salary up to £18,000 plus benefits In addition to the above position, our client is seeking a bright, energetic and articulate Marketing Support Assistant to assist with the work of the Marketing Support Director. Candidates will probably be in their late 20's, with a degree in Marketing or Business Administration and will have around 3 to 5 years' experience working in a marketing role in a professional services environment. It would be useful to have had in either case, candidates should write to Mr. R. Mitchell, Partner. Closing date for applications: Friday, 27th December, 1996.

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■ VISUAL ART 1

Blast from the past: Wyndham Lewis and the other Vorticists are exhibited in Germany



■ VISUAL ART 2

. . while in London the Photographers' Gallery offers a wide-ranging show of landscapes

THE



POP

Always polished and urbane - but Belinda Carlisle was at her best when touching on darker sentiments



■ TOMORROW

I Shot Andy Warhol, and all the other top new movies, reviewed by Geoff Brown

Warriors of the wasteland

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork sees the Vorticists finally

given their due on the Continent. Plus London shows

Vorticist movement burst upon the world in the summer of 1914. Through the pages of its magazine BLAST this young, impatient and irreverent group of London artists broadcast its rebellious cause. And the images reproduced in BLAST proved that British art had been transformed by a generation dedicated to extreme, urgent renewal.

23; crisis?

Harfir .

The importance of their rebellion has increasingly been recognised in Britain over the past 25 years. But the rest of Europe is still reluctant in acknowledge their achievement.
Only now has the first major Vorticist exhibition been mounted on the Continent, and the interest aroused there proves that the show is long overdue. Organised by Karin Orchard of the enterprising Sprengel Museum in Hanover, and now in Munich's Haus der Knnst, the survey captures the vitality and daring of the Vorticists'

Like the feisty young exponents of "Britart" today, the Vorticists were in a hurry. Most of them had only just left the Slade School, and the exuberant iconoclasm of BLAST is powered by disrespect for their elders. They wanted to blow away the inhibiting legacy of the Victorian era, and published a hilarious hit-list of passe individuals and institutions. But they valued certain aspects of the past as well, extolling the dynamic inventiveness and drive that had made Britain the crucible of the Industri-

Hence their determination to Like the Futurists in Italy, the

A SMALL selection of recent

paintings by Simon Linke is

on show at the top of a long staircase in the Lisson Gal-

lery. He paints letters to build .

up words and makes sen-

tences of varying levels of

comprehension and impor-

ten twice. The potentially decorative device of making a crisp, black, well-formed calli-

graphic shape or edge hold

Tith the unapologetic Futurists, though they did not view and the outstanding force of his impact of a homb, the modern existence with rhapsodic whiplash line gives the show a enthusiasm. For all its lean, clearcut vivacity and often exhilarating colour, a typical Vorticist picture takes a hard, critical view of mechanised prowess. Dehuman-isation is often a key theme, and so is a violence that threatens to explode outwards and burst

A lifelong satirist, Lewis soon developed the robotic figures whose masklike faces and metallic musculature appear in many of his images. But he became fascinated by what he called the "urban jungle" of the machine-age city as well. He often placed his angular people in the context of a metropolis based on New York's vertiginous skyscrapers. Photographs of Man-hattan by Alvin Langdon Coburn, whose later Vortographs showed how Vorticism could lead the camera towards abstraction, helped to shape Lewis's vision. If the Tate Gallery had lent either Workshop or The Crowd, Lewis's two surviving Vorticist oil paint-ings, his urban preoccupations would be even more clear. But the incisive drawings and watercolours displayed here have an arresting presence of their own. None of the large canvases

steely assurance from the outset.

produced by the movement's other members still exists. But the related works on paper by Jessie Dismorr, Frederick Etchells, William Roberts, Helen Saunders and Edward Wadsworth provide a tense, brittle and powerfully organised idea of what their paintings looked like. Roberts's Two Step is admirable, a brilliant little watercolour where frantically dancing figures appear to be caught up in the greater dynamism of the surrounding city. Wadsworth's woodcuts are superb, too, exploring the jagged forms of industrial buildings from his native

While the Vorticists all shared the same pictorial language to a remarkably unified extent, each of them emerges here with a sharply defined individuality. Saunders is

David Bomberg's The Mud Bath (1914), "whose title so uncannily prophesied the churned, shelltorn landscape of wartime France" often seems empowered by anguish, and she favours acid yellows and limes which sharpen her distinctive designs. The mysterious Lawrence Atkinson is more subdued, isolating his structures against empty space so that they appear to prophesy his later decision to concentrate on carved,

abstract sculpture. Two sculptors were associated with the movement. Like Ezra Pound, who first thought of the vortex idea and gave the movement its name, both were foreigners. Perhaps Jacob Epstein and Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, from America and France respectively, derived some of their appetite for renewal from their vantage as outsiders. At any rate, they opened British sculpture up to a revolutionary range of possibilities.

ier the voun

precocious carvings. Whether working in marble, brass, alabaster or portland stone, he is everresourceful and impossible to pin down. Epstein seems sturdier, more slow-moving. While Gaudier threw himself into polemical Vorticist activities with zeal, the older man insisted on remaining at a

remove from the group. Even so, Epstein's prodigious Rock Drill makes absolute sense within this exhibition. The first version, where a white plaster driller was mounted on a real machine, sums up the Vorticist vision of mechanised humanity. It also displays, through the brazenly phallic drill, Epstein's determination to break through sexual taboos at every opportunity. But he became dissatisfied with this titanic sculpture, represented here by a

discarded the drill, lopped off the driller's legs and dispensed with his right forearm and left hand. The once-superhuman robot is turned into a tragic torso, incapable of defending either himself or the embryonic form lodged so surprisingly within his exposed rib-cage.

Why had Epstein done it? Leaving aside his probable qualms about incorporating a "found" drill in a work of art, I believe that the First World War played a decisive role. The final Rock Drill bronze is akin to a wounded man, one of the many whose lives were smashed in the carnage on the Western Front.

Ultimately, the war wrecked Vorticism, too. In 1915 Gaudier was killed in the trenches at the age of 23. Soon enough, most of the other male Vorticists enlisted for active service. Even David Bomberg, a reluctant soldier, felt impelled to

in the exhibition. And his 1914 painting The Mud Bath, whose title so uncannily prophesied the churned, shelltorn landscape of wartime France, provides the show with one of its climactic moments. The metallic figures hurling them-selves around this clangorous canvas are hard-edged embodiments of the dynamism cherished by

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Lewis and his allies. Pound claimed that the vortex was "the point of maximum energy", and continued to champion the movement throughout the long years of war. By 1918, however, it was all over. The destruction wrought by machine-age weapons had changed the Vorticists' vision. They were themselves blasted, but not before their harsh, audacious and challenging work had pushed British art into a fierce engagement with the modern age

BLAST! The First Avant-Garde in England is at the Haus der Kunst.

their elders 9 through the very boundaries of the The exhibition starts with Wyndham Lewis. His tripartite role, as place the machine-age world at the artist, theorist and editor of BLAST, heart of the work they produced. is central to an understanding of the movement. A decade older than

6 The exuberant

iconoclasm of

BLAST is powered

by disrespect for

an emergent century should reflect. them to the insurrectionary cause especially vital, returning time and eclectic of the two, is presented here of the original work's baleful, join the army. Although he had the dramatically changing character and wrote trenchant essays about again to gesticulating figures with as the maker of small, fluent, looming authority. Soon after it never been a member of the BLAST terr of contemporary life. Unlike the life also drew copiously, claw-like fingers. Their energy unpredictable and astonishingly was exhibited in 1915. Epstein group, his best work looks at home

still within a choppy sea of thick white paint provides a

tance: "I didn't mean anything NW15 by it", for instance, or Scha- Jan 11 denfreude elongated and writ-IT IS difficult to know where the definition of landscape photography begins and ends. Andrew Cross, the

wonderful form of display.

Simon Linke, Lisson Gallery,

52-54 Bell Street, London

NW15 (0171-724 2739) until

organiser of this Photographers' Gallery exhibition, covers such a range of contemporary photographic practice that he wavers between celebrating the work on display and acknowledging that the concept may be dead. Distinctions between town and country may have disappeared, along with the expectation of visual or emotional

release. Stefan Gec's view of an air base, taken from the undercarriage of a carrier pigeon, carries with it a hidden personal history, while the elaborately hung series of photographs by Joseph Bartscherer replaces documentary overview with close-up form. The show also includes excellent pictures of railroads by James Welling, interesting glimpses of cities and mountains seen through the grainy grid of the television screen by Martin Cole, views from on high of winding roads and swimming pools on the edge of Beverly Hills by Catherine Opie, and overblown prints by

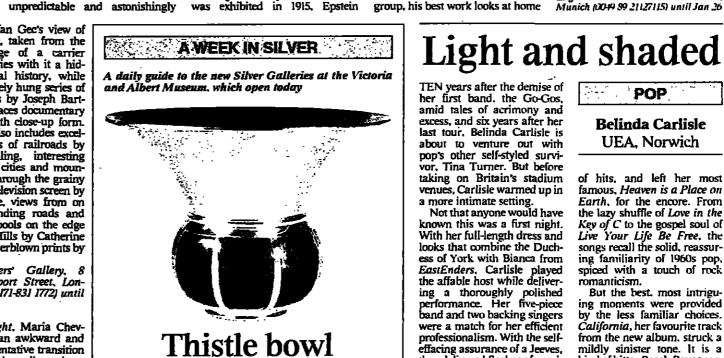
Photographers' Gallery, 8 Great Newport Street, Lon-don WC2 (0171-831 1772) until

WITH Weight, Maria Chevska makes an awkward and somewhat tentative transition from two to three dimensions. A selection of shallow, long, thin panels hangs on the walls at varying levels. Some have cotton quilting stretched across them, while others are covered with an almost translucent membrane of material. The effect is slight, light, muted and dry; paint and varnish seep at times through the diamond quilted fabric to leave a crisscross of back-tofront staining. In other sections ground graphite or white paint has been applied to provide a more substantial surface. Two earlier paintings, also on show, make a stronger play between their own transparent surface and the solid drawn elements embedded in-

Weight, 33 Great Sutton Street, London EC1 (0171-251 6265) until Dec 7

THREE sections of simple builder's material lie flat, slightly raised, on sections of timber. A length of white tape runs along one side on the floor - and that, except for a triangle on the floor made from white and black electrical tape, is it. The floor has been cleaned but nothing has really been changed. Alison Penton's work is so subtle that it hardly seems there at all; its success lies in its relation to the space around it, the overall stance of the gallery, the powerful line of lights that shine from above. Alison Penton, Eagle Gallery, 159 Farringdon Road, London ECI (0171-833 2674), until

SACHA CRADDOCK



THIS exquisite modern work was created by Gerald Benney four years ago out of crimson enamel and textured silver. Benney, born in 1930, is one of the country's leading silversmiths, and introduced enamelling into the contempo-rary British silversmith's repertoire. Among his most important commissions have been items for St Paul's Cathedral, Coventry Cathedral and 10 Downing Street, as well as a gold mace for the Queen. The Thistle Bowl is on loan to the V&A as part of Treasures of Today, a display by the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths.

 The Silver Galleries, Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (0171-938 8441)

TOMORROW: The 15th-century Merode Cup

Light and shaded

TEN years after the demise of her first band, the Go-Gos, amid tales of acrimony and excess, and six years after her last tour, Belinda Carlisle is about to venture out with pop's other self-styled survivor, Tina Turner. But before taking on Britain's stadium venues, Carlisle warmed up in

a more intimate setting. Not that anyone would have known this was a first night. With her full-length dress and looks that combine the Duchess of York with Bianca from EastEnders, Carlisle played the affable host while delivering a thoroughly polished performance. Her five-piece band and two backing singers were a match for her efficient professionalism. With the self-effacing assurance of a Jeeves, they delivered flashes of musi-

cal colour to order. The show exhumed her now considerable back catalogue of hits. She opened with Big Scary Animal, followed it with another chart success, I Get Weak, and then launched into Always Breaking My Heart, from her new album A Man and a Woman. Each boasted the same smooth harmonies and big choruses, and each was topped off with the warm burr of her voice.

In an hour-long set, she crammed in another handful POP

Belinda Carlisle UEA, Norwich

of hits, and left her most famous. Heaven is a Place on Earth, for the encore, From the lazy shuffle of Love in the Key of C to the gospel soul of Live Your Life Be Free, the songs recall the solid, reassuring familiarity of 1960s pop. spiced with a touch of rock romanticism.

But the best, most intriguing moments were provided the less familiar choices. California, her favourite track from the new album, struck a mildly sinister tone. It is a kind of bitter Beach Boys tune. which deals with regret and relief at leaving LA and "the sharks and the Chardonnay". As on another personal selection, Too Much Water, from her 1993 album Real, she pushed her voice harder, letting it crack against the melody. For a moment the bright sheen of her performance and the solid virtues of her songs fractured, to reveal the undertow pulling against the smooth current.

JOHN STREET

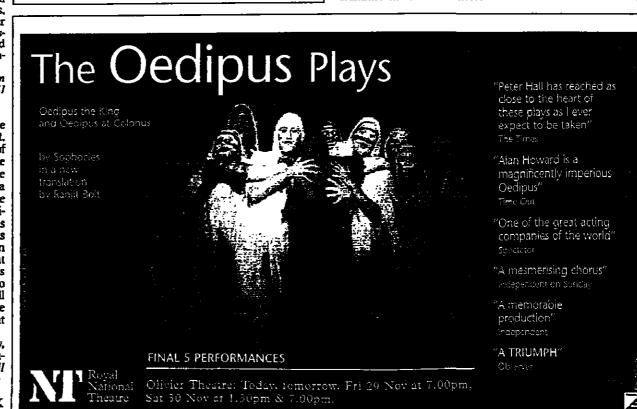


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CHANGING TIMES





■ CHOICE I

Griff Rhys Jones stars in Ben Travers's farce, Plunder

VENUE: In preview at the Savoy Theatre

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillan Maxey

GLASGOW- Direct from the West End, Communicacio Theetre Company presents its celebrated production of Edmond Resistand's romantic comedy, Cyrane de Bergernes Tom Mannon plays the awordsmith and post, whose love for Rossanse is impeded by his gargantuan rosse. Directed by Gerry Multimore translated by Eckern Moroan.

gargantuan nose. Directed by Geny Mulgrew, translated by Edwin Morgen. Theetre Royal, Hope Street (0141-332 9000). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm

HUDDERSHED Elision makes its debut concert appearance in Britain at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. Sendro Gori will

teuser reserval. Sendro Gura Will conduct the 16-pece Australian ensemble in the British premieres of Alessandro Melchiore's Terra Incogni Adam Yee's Yashar ye Hezu par panemoh and Richard Barreti's five-movement cycle, Nagatives. St Paul's Hall (01484 430528). Toelekt 7 20cm.

LIVERPOOL: Paul Damei conducts the Royal Liverpool Philinamonic

ELSEWHERE



■ CHOICE 2

Paul Daniel steers the RLPO through Wagner, Britten and Sibelius

VENUE: Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, tonight

Orchestra in operatic music by Wagner and Britten, with the soprano Joan Rodgers singing the latter's deligibit. Four Chansons Françaises. The programme ends with Stellus's best-known symphony, No 5 Philiharmonic Hall, Hope Street (0151-709 3789) Tonigha, 7.30pm.

STRATFORD: The 1996/97 season at

permiss and stochast rectain of playing Benedick and Beatrice in Much Ado About Nothing Michael Boyd directs, Tom Piper designs.

Royal Shelmspears Theatre,
Waterside (1/1789 295623). Opens

Anthony of Offiny Tatisuo Miyajima; Liza May Post (pi 171-499 4100). Carration Arts Centra: Flichard Tuttle: Grey Wells Work (0171-435 2843) ... Kapil Jaytendar Jade Jagger, Paintings (0171-437 2172) ... London international Gellery of Children's Art: Through the Eyes of a Child Fitch and Chinese Children's Art (0171-431 1200) ... National: National Gellery Colectors: John Judius Angerstein (0717-747 2865) ...

Galery Collectors John American Angerstein (0171-747 2865) National Theatre: Dazzle (0171-928 2035) . . Royal Acadessy: From Mamlegna to Picasso (0171-499 7438) Stern Art Deslers: Ludovic-Rodo Pssarro Reirospective (0171-229 5187)

the main house opens with Alex Jennings and Sidohan Redmond

LONDON GALLERIES





THEATRE

A trio of top performers makes Adrian Noble's staging of The Cherry Orchard one to cherish



MUSIC

Maurizio Pollini is in superb form and provocative mood as he opens his cycle of Beethoven sonatas

DONALD COOPER

IN THE HOUSE OF CROSSED IN THE MOUSE OF CHURSHELD OF DESIRES: Told in the tradition of commedia dell'arte. Music Theritie Weles presents a one-off performance of John Woothich's opens of magical transformations and mistaken identities With a floretto by Manna Warner. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) Tonight, 7 45pm.

PLUNDER: Second time lucky for Griff Rhys Jones in a Ben Travers farce at this venue (the might before he was due to open in Thank the place burnt down). Kevin McNally and Sara Crowe are also in the cast. Peter James directs. in the cast, Peter James corect Savey, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8988) Previews begin tonight, 7 30pm. Opens December 2, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7,30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2,30pm. Until February 15

SILVER SERVICE: The new Silver Galleries open today at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Originally bulk to house ceramics, the highly contale Victorian galleries have been refurbished to galleries have been refurbished to provide an opulent setting for the national collection of English saver More than 1,500 pieces will illustrate the history, beauty and versatility of the precious metal. See box, page 39 Victoria and Albert Museum. Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938 8500) Mon., noon-5.50pm; Tuee-Sun, 10am-5.50pm.

THE BELLE VUE: Greed and rage in a curious 1920s hotel: tart early in a curious 1920s hotel: tart early cornedy by Odion von Honseth, never seen before in Britain, and presented by Actors Touring Company, Nack Philippou directs a cest headed by Ann Striamir Erest week

hilippou directs a casa neaceu cy m inbank, Finzi week ynte Studio, King Street, lammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Idon-Sat, 8pm; mats Sat, 4:30pm. MON-Sat, spm; mats Sat, 4.3upm.

III BLINDED BY THE SUN: Frances de la Tour, Duncan Beil and Douglas Hodge play scientitist invoked in a case of spentitic Insud Ron Daniels clinicis Stephen Poliakoff's new play.

National (Cottestoe), South Bank, SET. (0171-028 2252) Toright and tomorrow 7.30pm; mat Thurs, 2.30pm, in rep. CASH ON DELIVERY: Bradley Walsh in his first leading West End role in terrical partic about benefit traud, written by Michael Cooney. Writtenkall, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1735) Mon-Fir, Spm; Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm; met Wed, 3pm. SI A DOLL'S HOUSE: Jenet McTeer slams the door in Anthony Page's production of lissen's proto-femmist drama. Owen Tesle plays her husbend. Playhouse, Northumbestand Ave, WC2 (0171-839 4401) Mon-Sat, 7 30pm; mat Sat 2 30pm

THEATRE GUIDE

House tall, returns only
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Seats at all prices

☐ THE GAY DETECTIVE: Gerard Stembridge's Dubfin success in which a young Garda sergeant is told to use his gayness to solve puzzling cases. Theyefe, 28 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-528 1000) Mon-Sat, 8pm; met Sat, 4pm. Until November 30. III HAMILET: Michael Maloney a profoundly moestuous Prince in Philip profoundly moestuous Prince in Philip Franks's modern dress production Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-898 7795), Mon-Sat, 7 45pm; mai Sat, 2.30pm, Until November 30 LI JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR Restored theatre, revived show, the theetre after 55 years, the show back k celebrate its 25th anniversary, Gale Edwards directs a reconceived

(0171-656 1607, booking fee) Mon-Sat, 7 45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. ☐ MAX KLAPPER — A LIFE IN PICTURES: What sounds a feechating co-production between the Gate
Theatre and Stray Dog Productions:
Devid Farr's celebration of cinema told
in a max of film and theatre With Anthony
Higgars, Emily Loyd (her first stage
role) and Tracy Letts.
Electric Cinema, Portobello Roed,
Wi1 (0171-420 0000). Mon-Set, 8pm.
Until December 14

LONG RUNNERS

□ Blood Brothers: Phoenix (0171-399 1733). □ The Complete Works of William Shekespeers (Abridged): Criterion (0171-399 1737). □ Doon't Dress for Disner Duchess (0171-494 5070). □ Greese: Cambridge (0171-494 5080) □ Jolsson: Victoria. Palace (0171-834 1317). □ The Mousetrap St Martin's (0171-834 1439). □ Oliver! Palacium (0171-494 5020). ■ The Phastom of the Opera: Her Majasty's (0171-494 500) ■ Startight Express: Apollo Victoria (0171-418 6054). ■ Sunset Boulevard: Adelpin (0171-344 0055) Ticket information supplied by Society Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

superlatives hen Stanislavsky directed who is growing old without growing Chekhov's greatest play at up. Likewise with his sister Liuba. the Moscow Art Theatre, the sets were wholly natu-

Bring on the

ralistic and pretty elaborate. The surviving photos variously show tow-ering windows behind whose muslin curtains you can see cherry trees covered with white blossom, hay fields running to the horizon, and glimpses of

sive ballroom. But one of the many merits of Adrian Noble's revival is to demonstrate how much less visual ado is needed for us to feel that an old, aristocratic Russia is dying, a new, entrepreneurial Russia replacing it, and the Russia of 1917

stirring in the cradle.
Indeed, Richard Hudson's set is spectacularly unspectacular. It consists of three walls of greyish curtains with pleats that create an impression of squidgy corrugated iron. In front of them a little basic furniture comes and goes, while through them you can discern characters wandering in midair without visible means of support. which, economically speaking, most of them are. It is left to Alec McCowen, Penelope Wilton and David Troughton to bring reality and depth to the shifts

Ranyevsky estate. This all three performers do, even more successfully than when the revival opened in Stratford last year. With the help of puckerings of the eyes and complacent smiles and fussy fiddlings with the moustache and a hilarious yet unemphatic primness of mien, McCowen suggests the ineffec-tiveness of Gaev, the genteel capon

NO STRANGER either to

Beethoven or to a devoted

London following, Maurizio

Pollini has begun his long-

awaited pianistic pilgrimage

through the Beethoven sona-

tas. He is performing all 32 of

them in seven programmes

between now and next June,

each stage being repeated in Paris and Vienna as he goes.

What is already clear is that his audiences will discover

new insights into familiar

music that differ from the

To begin at the beginning,

Pollini elected to treat the four

earliest sonatas in his first

programme not as a continua-

tion of the 18th-century

accepted Viennese style.

of status and power on the debt-ridden

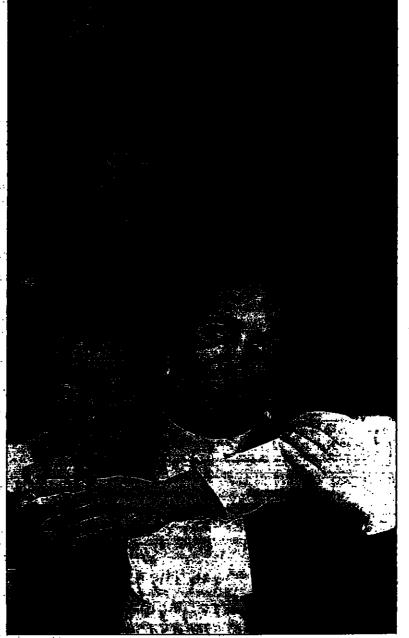
although her helplessness takes a less childish form. Wilton combines warmth and generosity of spirit with a wry, wistful melancholy as she watches herself fail to cope with just about everything, from the unworthy lover who wants to lure her to Paris to an estate that demands a practical realism she cannot help

disdaining.
We should know by now that both are major performers, and it is The Cherry about time we gave a Orchard similar respect to Troughton, who hurls Albery himself into his roles as

if going for gold in the decathlon. But his force is combined with judgment and, at times, delicacy. When his Lopakhin drunkenly announces he has bought the estate where his father worked as a serf, he barges and clatters about like a bull in a china shop packed with frozen, staring figurines. But he doesn't let you miss the confused affections behind the class rage, or the incongruous grief

behind the boorishness. Not every performance has im-proved since Stratford — hasn't the admirable Kate Duchene's Varya become too emotionally detached? - nor do all the newcomers add to the production's quality. But it has clarity and it has humour. It lets you see characters from the outside and feel them from the inside. It manages mood-swings and switches of feeling expertly. If you want to introduce someone to Chekhov, this is the production to choose:

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



In photography as in art, a fuzzy Gaev (Ales-McGowen) hovers over Varya (Kate Duchene) and Liuba (Penelope Wilton) in The Cherry Orchard

NEW RELEASES

AMERICAN BUFFALO (15): A powerful adaptation of David Memet's play about small-lime frusters, with Dustin Hoffman and Dennis Frenz. Director, Michael Corrente.

Metro (0171-437 0757) GABBEH: Beautiful, poetic Iranian film about nomadic carpet weavers. Directo Mobaco Maldonalitat

ICA (0171-930 3647) KANSAS CITY (15): Too much artific n's tale of crime and jazz in 1930s Kansas City, With Jenniter San Leigh, Miranda Richardson, Harry

Selatorte.
ABC Staffesbury Avenue (0171-838 6278) Chelses (0171-351 3742) Cisphem Picture Horiss (0171-498 6274 625 1825) n (5) (0171-435 1525

 MR RELIABLE (15) Petry criminal becomes folk hero in late-1960s Sydney. Engaging Aussia comedy with Colim Friels and Jacqueline McKerzle.

ABC Tottlernham Count Road (0171-636 6148) Berblican (5) (0171-638 8891) MGM Belizer Street (0171-835 9772) Column Kandington (1174-935 9772) Odeon Kensington (01426 914666) Pisza (j.) (0990 888890) UCI Whiteley

CINEMA GUIDE

in London and (where ted with the symbol +) hase across the country

(0090 888990) Virgin Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) Warner (0171-437 THE SUNCHASER (15): A teenage crimmal and uptight doctor embark on a journey of discovery. With Woody Harrelson and Jon Seda. Virgin Chelses (0171-352 5088) Trocaders (2) (171-434 0031) Warner (2) (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT Cornedy about verigetul Maintettan wives, with julicy perts for Diene Keets Bette Midler, Goldie Hawn. Berfolcan (§) (7171-838 8891) Clapham Picture Hottes (7171-498 Clapham Picture (1990) 3323) Empire (5) (0990 888990) 3323 Empire (5) (0990 888990)

Surias Cottage (01428 914098)
Phoenix (0181-883 2233) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) Screen/Balor Street (0171-935 2772) UCI Whiteleys (3) (0990 888990) Virgins: Fullstan Road (0171-370 2638) Trocadero (2) (0171-434 0731)

THE ISLAND OF DR MOREAU ◆ THE ISLAND OF DR MOREAU

(12): Pant-silly, part-nasty adaptation of

H.G. Welts's tale, with Marten Brando,

Val Kirner and David Thewis.

Empire § (1990 888 990) Odeons:

Kensington (11428 914666) Swiss

Cottage (01428 914066) Swiss

(0590 888990) UCU Whiteleys § (0990 889990) Virgin Trocadero § (0171-424 0731) ◆ MICHAEL COLLINS (15): Action

ousts politics in Neil Jordan's apic: With Liam Neeson as the hish revolutionary. Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3223) MGM Belor Street (0171-935 9772) Notting Hill Coronet (5) (0171-727 6705) Odeon Swiss Cottage (014269 14388) Renote (0171-837 8402) Rilo (0171-254 6577) Ritzy (0171-737 121) Screen/Green (0171-226 3520) UCI Whitneys (§) (090 8889 Virgins: Futhern Road (0171-370 2636) Haymarket (0171-839 1527) Warner (0171-437 4343)

Goodnight Vienna

Haydn-Mozart tradition, but much more as a precursor of the later, mature Beethoven, firmly projecting the austere toughness and fibre that was to become so characteristic of the composer. Even the earliest sonata, Op 2 No I, was given a forceful, big-scale treatment, emphasising its tautness of structure more than its lyrical invention.

The Italian-born pianist soon emphatically disproved Bach's one-time comment that he thought the new-fangled

Festival Hall

modern keyboard, sometimes particular chord. Yet at the same time he allowed subsid-

bass line in the Large of Op 2 No 2 to come clearly through before an assertive finale where the main theme threat-ened to dissolve in the figure tion around it.

merely side-glances in a fiencely intense forward progress.

By the time Beethoven arrived at his E flat Sonata, Op 7, two years later he was the talk of Vienna as a brilliant pianist, whatever they thought of him 4.再以《**张**克

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THE SHAPE

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Political lacked nothing in brilliance or skill, and he had become a touch more relaxed in his approach, transporting us to a different spiritual plane in the Largo movement and becoming surprisingly gentle elsewhere when this was re-quired. What he will make of the remaining sonatas is as enignatic a prospect as his technical command is

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iary ideas such as the stealthy

Maurizio Pollini

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■ PANTOMIME

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 27 1996

From the majestic Patricia Routledge in Guildford for Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs ...



PANTOMIME

... and the indestructible Lionel Blair in Aladdin at the Sheffield Lyceum ...





PANTOMIME

.. to Una Stubbs playing Peter Pan in Leeds at the West Yorkshire Playhouse ...



SEVENOAKS Stag Theatre (01732 450175) Wind in the Willows

Lyceum Theatre (0114-276 9922)

Crucible Studio (0114-276 9922)

Mayflower Theatre (01703 711811) Snow White And The Seven

Nuffield Theatre (01703 671771)

Cliffs Pavilion (01702 351135)

King's Theatre (01705 828282)

Gordon Craig (01438 766866)

Empire Theatre (0191-514 2517)

Wyvern Theatre (01793 524481) Cinderella

Babes in the Woods and the

Adventures of Robin Hood

The Roses (01684 295074) Beauty And The Beast

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Assembly Hall (01892 530613)

Theatre Royal & Opera House

Palace Theatre (01923 225671)

Seauty And The Beast

Music Hall (01743 350763)

SHREWSBURY

Beauty and the Beast

Dec 14-Jan 4 SOUTHAMPTON

Dec 18-Jan 4 SHEFFIELD

Dec 19-Jan 20

Dec 4-lan 4

Dwarfs Dec 20-Feb 9

Peter Pan

Dwarfs

Dec ty-Jan 18

SOUTHEND

SOUTHPORT

Dec 20-Jan 19

Dec 12-Jan 11

STEVENAGE

Slecpine Beauty

STOCKPORT

Lamp Dec 21-Jan 19

Dec 17-Jan 1

SWINDON

Dec 19-Jan 5

WAKEFIELD

(01924 211311)

Dec 3-Jan 5

WATENED

Puss In Boots

Dec 20-Jan 18 TEWKESBURY

SUNDERLAND

Aladdin

■ PANTOMIME

ت. and Danny La Rue in Sheffield's Aladdin: we survey Britain's Christmas entertainments

The panto guide (oh yes it is!) From Snow White to Sooty: the pick of Christmas shows around the country

Albany Centre Theatre (0181-692, 4446) Nov 30-Jan 4 Barbican Theatre (0171-638-8891) Hansel & Gretel Dec 27-29. Bloomsbury Theatre (0171-388 8822) Sooty at Christmas Dec 20-23, 27-30, Jan 2-4 Chicken Shed Theatre (0181-449 1177) Arthur - The Knight before Christmas Drill Hall (0171-637 8270) Dick Daredevil inion Theatre 00171-416 6052 Hackney Empire (0181-985 2424) Goldilocks And The Three Bears Dec 12-Jan 5 Lewisham Theatre (0181-690 0002) Dec 20-Jan 19 (0181-741 2311) A Christmas Carol Dec 12-Jan 18 (0181-807 6680) Dec 5-Jan 4 North Peckham Civic Centre (0171-732 3232) Dèc 17-Jan 1 Players Theatre (0171-839 1134) Robin Hood Dec 4-Feb 16 Pezcock Theatre (0171-314 8800) Cinderella Riverside Studios (0181-74) 2255) Beauty And The Beast Dec 16-78 St Helen's Church Hall (0171-229 8360) Aladdin or A Lad in Trouble Dec 10-14 Southwark Playhouse (0171-620 3494) Dec 10-14 Theatre Royal Stratford East (0181-534 0310) Beauty And The Beast Dec 2-Jan 25 Unicorn Theatre for Childre @171-836 3334Q Nov 16-Jan 18. Young Vic Theatre (0171-928 6363)

Beauty and the Beast

Robin Hood and the Babes in

Wimbledon Polka Children's

Theatre (0181-543 4888

Nov I4-Feb I

(0181-540 0362)

(D181-540 0362)

Dec 14-Jan 26

Dec.8-15

The Wizard of Ox Nov 21-Feb 8 ASHTON UNDER LYNE Tameside Hippodro. (0161-308 3223) Dec 20-Jan 12 AYLESBURY relight Theatre (01296 431272) A Christmas Carol Dec 20-3) BAGNOR, NEWBURY Watermill Theatre (01635 46044) Dec 6-Jan 11 BARNSTAPLE Queen's Thestre (01271 24242) Aladdin BARROW IN FURNESS Forum 28 401229 8200001 Dec 23, 24, 27-30, Jan 2, 3 BARNSLEY Civie Theatre (01226 206757) Jack and The Reanstalk BASILDON Towngate Theatre (01268 531343) Sleeping Beauty Dec 17-30 Basingstoke Haymarket Theatre (01286 465566) The Anvil (01256 844244) Dec 13-Jan 5 BATH Theatre Royal (01225 448844) Cinderella Dec 19-Jan 26 The Rondo (01225 332579) Jan 15-19 BERWICK UPON TWEED The Maltings (01289 330999) The Snow Queen Dec 30-Jan 4 BEXHILL ON SEA De La Warr Pavilion (01424 787949) 🐰 Dec 20 Jan 4. Cinderella. Dec 13-lan 11

BIRMINGHAM

Dec 18-jan 4

The BFG

Alexandra Theatre (0121-643 1231)

The Phantogr of the Opera on lee

Crescent Theatre (0121-643 5858) A Christmas Carol Dec 7-14, 28-30, Jan 6-11

Hippodrome (0<u>1</u>21-622, 7486)

(0)21-440 3839, Beauty aid the Beast Nov 30-1an 4 Old Rep Theatre (6)21-616 1519)

Dec 19-Feb 15 Midland Arts Centre

Nov 29 Jan 25 Season's Greetines Dec 8-Jan 18
BLACKBURN King George's Hall (01254 582582) Ice Fantasia BLACKPOOL Grand Theatre (01253 28372) Cinderella : Dec 19-Jan 11 Opera House (01253 27786) Lily Savage in Christmas Cracker BLANDFORD Bryanston Arts Centre (01258 456533) Nov 29-Dec 7 BOLTON Octagnn Theatre (01204 520661) Stripy Tales Albert Halls (01204 364333) uty and the Beast Dec 7-Jan 11 BOSTON Blackfriars Arts Centre (01205 363108) Dec 12-Jan 5 BOURNEMOUTH vilion Theatre (01202 456456) Dick Whittings Dec 20-Jan 19 BRACKNELL Wilde Theatre (01344 484123) Sleeping Beauty Dec 4-Jan 4 BRADFORD Albambra Theatre (0)274 752000 Jack and the Beanstalk Dec 20-Feb 2 BRENTFORD Watermans Arts Centre (0181-568 1176) Ìack And The Beanstalk Dec 3-Jan 5 BRIDLINGTON Spa Theatre (01262 678258) Dick Whittington Dec 26-Jan 4 BRIGHTON Donse (01273 709709) Wind In The Willows Dec 19-Jan 5 Gardner Arts Centre (01273 685861) Dec 12-Jan 4 Theatre Royal (01273 328488) Snow White And The Seven Dec 12-Jan 11 BRISTOL Dick Whittington Dec 20-Jan 25 Old Vic (0117-987 7877) Dec 6-Jan 25 BROADSTAIRS stairs Pavilion (01843 865726) Christmas Circus Dec 26-29 BROMLEY Churchill Theatre (0181-460 6677) Dec 12-Jan 19 BURY Met Arts Centre (0161-761 2216) The Bradshaws Nov 29-Jan 11 BURY ST EDMUNDS

Theatre Royal (01284 769505) Dec 6-Jan II BUXTON Opera House (01298 72190) Cinderella Dec 19 - Jan 4 CAMBERLEY Arts Link (01276 23738) Jack And The Beanstal Dec 12-Jan 5 CAMBRIDGE Arts Theatre (01223 503333)

Dick Whittington And His Cat

Dec 19-Jan 18 The Orehard (01322 220000) Dick Whittington Corn Exchange (01223 357851) Civic Theatre (01325 486555) Jack And The Beanstalk Peter Pan Dec 19-Jan 12 CANNOCK Prince of Wales Centre (01543 578762) Dec 23-30 CANTERBURY Playhouse (01332 363275) Aladdin Marlowe Theatre (01227 787787) Dec 13-Jan 12 CARLISLE Sands Centre (01228 25222) Dec 18-30 CHATHAM. EXETER Central Theats Aladdin re (01634 403868) Northcott 7 Cinderella Dec 13-Jan 5 Medway Arts Centre FALMOUTH (01634 408965) Snow White Arts Centre (01326 212300) The Golden Touch Dec 12-14 Hansel & Gretel **FAREHAM** Dec 24-Jan 4 CHELMSFORD Puss In The Boots Civic Theatre (01245 495028) Dick Whittington Dec 18-Jan 4 FROME Dec 14-Jan 4 CHELTENHAM Everyman Theatre (01242 572573) The Adventures of Robin Hood The Snow Queen GRANTHAM Dec 6-Jan 18 Arts Centre (01476 593966) CHESTER Babes In The Wood Gateway Theatre (01244 340392) Dec 28-Jan !! Beauty And The Beast GRAVESEND Nov 30-Jan 11 The Woodville Halk CHESTERFIELD (01474 3374596) Pomegranate Theatre (01246 345222) Dec 21-Jan 11 Beauty And The Beast GUILDFORD Dec 21-Jan II Wonne Arnaud Theatre CHICHESTER (01483 440000) Festival Theatre (01243 781312) Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Dec 13-Jan 4 Dec 12-Jan 11 HALIFAX CHIPPING NORTON Victoria Theatre (01422 351158) The Theatre (01608 642350) Sleeping Beauty Dec 5-Jan ii Dec 20-Jan 5 HARLOW COLCHESTER Mercury Theatre (01206 573948) Dick Whittington Playbouse (01279 431945) Dick Whittington Dec 19-Jan 18 Dec 6-Jan II HARROGATE COVENTRY Harrogate Theatre (01423 502116) Cinderella atre (01203 553055) Belgrade Thes Aladdin Dec 13-Jan 11 Dec 3-Jan 25

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CRAWLEY

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Dec 14-Jan 12

Jack And The Be

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Dec 6-Jan 12

DARTFORD

Dec 12-Jan 18

Dec 7-Jan 26

DEPTFORD

Nov 28-Jan 4

Nov 30-Jan 25

(01323 412000)

Mother Goos

Jan 2I-25

EASTBOURNE

Devoushire Park Theatre

ott Theatre (01392 493493)

Ferneham Hall (01329 231942)

Merlin Theatre (01373 465949)

DARLINGTON

CREWE

The Hawth (01293 553636)

Ashcroft Theatre (0181-688 9291)

Albany Theatre (0181-692 4446)

Lyccum (01270 537333)

Warwick Arts Centre

Humbugs all round: Richard Briers as Ebenezer Scrooge in A Christmas Carol at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith

LEICESTER White Rock Theatre Haymarket Theatre (0116-253 9797) (01424 78100) The Amazing Tale of Good King Aladdin Dec 13-Jan 18 HAYES Baba Yaga Bony Legs The Beck Theatre (0181-561 8371) Babes In The Woods HAYWARDS HEATH Clair Hall (01444 455440) Babes in the Wood HEXHAM Queen's Hall (01434 607272). A Visit From Scrooge Dec ID-14 HIGH WYCOMBE Wycombe Swan (01494 512000) Dec 13-Jan 11 Brozborn Civic Hall (01992 441946) Sleeping Beauty Dec 28-Jan 4 HORNCHURCH Queens Theatre (01708 443333) Snow White HORSHAM Arts Centre (01403 268689) Dick Whittington HUDDERSFIELD Laurence Batley (01484 430528) Dec 12-Jan 4 New Theatre #01482 226655 Babes In The Wood Dec 14-Jan 18 ILFORD 0181-553 4466) Sleeping Beauty Dec 19-Feb 1 IPSWICH Wolsey Theatre (01473 253725) The Secret Garden Dec 10-Jan 18 KIDDERMINSTER The Rose (01562 743745) The Tinder Box LANCASTER Duke's Theatre (01524 66645) Snow Oucen LEATHERHEAD Thorndike Theatre (01372, 377677) Joseph And The Amazing Dec 17-Jan 18 LEEDS Civic Theatre (0113 2455505) Dec 7-Jan 4 City Varieties Music Hall (0113-243 0808) Rabes In The Wood Dec 12-Jan 12 Grand Theatre & Opera House (0113-245 9351) A Christmas Carol

West Yorkshire Playhouse

(0113-244 2111)

Nov. 22-Jan 18

Dec 5-Jan 4 Phoenix Arts (0116-255 4854) The Snow Queen Dec 21-29 LINCOLN Theatre Royal (01522 525555 Dick Whitting Dec 19-Jan 26 LIVERPOOL Everyman Theatre (0151-709 4776) Cinderella Nov 28-Jan 25 Dec 4-14 Unity Theatre (0151-709 4988) Dec 17-21 Playhouse (0151-709 8363) The Wind In The Willows Dec 5-Jan 18 Neptune Theatre (0151-709 7844) Dick Whittington Dec 27-30 Dec 19-Jan 18 LUTON St George's Theatre (01582 21628) Hansel and Gretel Dec 19-21 Bertie Badger's Winter Cinderella Wonderlan MALVERN Festival Theatre (01684 892277) The Wind In The Willows Dec 26-Jan 11 MANCHESTER Library Theatre (0161-236 7110) A Little Princess Nov 29-Jan 18 PRESTON MANSFIELD Palace Theatre (01623 663085) Aladdin Dec 13-Jan 11 Dec 13-Jan 4 MARGATE Winter Gardens (01843 591750) Dec 26-29 READING MIDDLESBROUGH Hexagon (0118-960 6060) Little Theatre (01642 815181) Goldilocks And The Three Bears Dec 14-Jan 12 RICHMOND NEWARK Palace Theatre (01636 71156) (0181-940 0088) Jack And The Beanstalk Aladdin Dec 16-Jan 5 Dec 13-Jan 25 NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME ROTHERHAM New Victoria Theatre Civic Theatre (01709 823640) (01782 717962) Aladdin Beauty and the Beast Dec 21-Jan 4 Nov 27-Jan 18 ST ALBANS NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE Alban Arena (01727 844488) Playbouse (0191-230 5151) Cinderella Merlin The Magnificent Dec 14-Jan 4 SALISBURY Dec 9-Jan 11 The Terrible Grump Playhouse (01722 320333)
Dick Whittington And His Cat Theatre Royal (0191-232 2061) Dec 7-Jan 11 SCARBOROUGH Dec 13-Jan 18 Spa Theatre (01723 376774) NORTHAMPTON Robin Hood And Babes In The Derugate Theatre (01604 24811) Wood Jack And The Beaustalk Dec 18-Jan 2 Dec 19-Jan 25 SCUNTHORPE Royal Theatre (01604 32533) Plowright Theatre (01724 840883) The Wonderful Wiz Of Oz Dec 9-Jan 25 Dec II-Jan 4

WELLINGBOROUGH The Castle (01933 270007) Dec 5-28 WESTON SUPER MARE Playhouse Theatre (01934 645544) Dec 23-Jan 19 WEYMOUTH Pavilion (01305 783225) Jack And The Beanstali Dec 26-Jan 5 WOLVERHAMPTON Theatre Royal (01603 630000) Dec 21-Jan 25 Peter Pan Dec 14-Feb 9 WORCESTER NOTTINGHAM Playhouse (0115-941 9419) Dick Whittington Swan Theatre (01905 27322) Peter Pan Nov 30-Jan 18 Theatre Royal (0115-948 2626) YEOVIL Octagon Theatre (01935 422884) Dec 12-Jan 19 Jack And The Beanstalk Coliseum (0161-624 2829) Dec 14-Jan 4 YORK Grand Opera House (01904 Nov 29-Jan II Grange Arts Centre (0161-624 8013) 671818) Robin Hood and the Babes in Beauty and the Beast Dec 14-Jan 12 Theatre Royal (01904 623568) Apollo Theatre (01865 244544) Pickwick Mother Goose Dec 20-Feb l Old Fire Stat SCOTLAND (01865 794490) Princess Forget-Me-Not ABERDEEN Arts Centre (01224 635008)
Dick Whittington Playbouse (01865 798600) Dick Whittington And His Cat Dec 6-Jan 12 PETERBOROUGH (01224 641122) Key Theatre (01733 52439) Cinderella Dec 6-Jan 4 AYR PLYMOUTH Theatre Royal (01752 267222) Dick Whittington Nov 29-Jan 18 PORTSMOUTH (01705 649000) King Lear — The Panto Nov 28-Dec 7 DUNDEE Charter Theatre (01772 258858) Dick Whittington Nov 29-Jan I RAMSGATE **EDINBURGH** Granville Theatre (01843 597678) Cinderella

His Maiesty's Theatre Gaiety Theatre (01292 611222) **CUMBERNAULD** Cumbernauld Theatre (01236 732887) The Pied Piper of Hamelin Nov 28-Dec 28 Repertory Theatre The Wizard of Oz atre (01382 223530) King's Theatre (0131-220 4349) Robinson Crusoe Dec 12-Jan 25 Royal Lyceum Theatre (0131-229 9697) The Sleeping Beauty Dec 6-Jan 4 **GLASGOW** Citizen's Theatre (0141-429 0022) The Wizard Of Oz Dec 3-Jan 18 King's Theatre (0141-287 5511) Dec 6-Jan 18 Mitchell Theatre (0141-227 5511) The Nightingale Pavilion (0141-332 1846) Dec 3-Jan 25 GLENROTHES Rothes Halls (01592 611101) Dec 9-14 GREENOCK Arts Guild (01475 723038) Beauty and the Beast INVERNESS Aladdin Dec 5-Jan 4

KIRKCALDY Adam Smith Theatre (01592 412929) Mother Goose Dec 13-Jan 18 KILMARNOCK Palace Theatre (01563 523590) Aladdin Dec 4-Jan II MOTHERWELL Civic Theatre (01698 267515) Sleeping Beauty Dec 2-Jan 4 PAISLEY Arts Centre (0141 887 1010) Jack and the Beanstalk Dec 2-28 PERTH Perth Theatre (01738 621031) Sinbad The Sail Dec 13 Jan 11 ST ANDREWS Byre Theatre (01334 476288) Hansel & Gretel

Snow White And The Seven WALES Southport Theatre (01704 540404) Cinderella **ABERGAVENNY** Borough Theatre (01873 850805) Dec 21, 23, 24 BANGOR Theatr Gwynedd (01248 351708) Robin Croeso (Welsh) Dec 13-21 CARDIFF New Theatre (01222 878889) Jack and the Beanstalk Dec 14-Jan 25 Davenport Theatre (0161-483 3801) Aladdin And His Wonderful Sherman Theatre (01222 230451) Big Friendly Giant Nov 27-Jan 11 Under the Bed Dec 2-28 COLWYN BAY Theatr Colwyn (01492 872000) The Snow Queen Dec 4-28 HARLECH Theatr Ardudwy (01766 780778) Snow Queen Dec 20-Jan II LLANDUDNO North Wales The (01492 872000) Cinderella Dec 13-Jan 5 MILFORD HAVEN Torch Theatre (01646 695267) The Emperor's New Clothes Dec 21-Jan 4 MOLD Theatr Clwyd (01352 755114) The Snow Queen PONTYPRIDD Muni Arts Centre (01443 485934) Dec 27-Jan 18 PORTHCAWL Grand Pavilion (01656 786996) Snow White and the Seven Dec 26-Jan 18 RHYL Pavilion Toeatre (0!745 330000) Peter Pan Dec 13-Jan 4 SWANSEA Grand Theatre (01792 475715) Robin Hood Dec 19-Feb 2 Taliesin Arts Centre (01792 296883) Pinocchio

IRELAND BELFAST Civic Arts Theatre (01232 316901) Cinderella Nov 28-Jan IS Grand Opera House (01232 241919) Mother Goos Dec 6-Jan 18 Lyric Theatre (01232 381081) There Was An Old Woman Group Theatre (01232 329685) Jack and the Beanstalk The Other Cinderella The Spires Centre (01232 235244) Sleeping Beauty Dec 10-Jan 3 CORK Opera House (021 270022) Cinderella Dec 19-Jan 12 Everyman Palace Theatre (021 501673) Red Riding Hood DERRY Rialto (01504 260516) Mother Goose Dec 430 DUBLIN Gaiety (01 6771717) Dec 15-Feb 15 Olympia (0! 6777744) Santa's Great Christmas Dec 16-Jan 4 Pirates of Penzance The Ark (01 6707788) The Great Christmas Carol Dec 17-Jan 5 The Point (01 \$363633) Sleeping Beauty Sort Of Jan 3-9 **ENNISKILLEN** Ardhowen (365 325440) Dec 10-21 GALWAY Town Hall Theatre (091 569777) Little Red Riding Hood Jan 2-12 An Taibhdhearc (091 563600) Dinglis (Tickles) Mammi Christmas Dec to-21 KILKENNY Watergate Theatre (056 61674) Jack and the Beanstalk Jan 12-19 LIMERICK

Belitable Arts Centre (06) 319866)

Jack and the Beanstalk

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By C Vice-A Weaths lomatic Excelle Colling SW5, to to Her ing he

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As the Spanish Premier arrives in London, Tunku Varadarajan, our Madrid correspondent, introduces a special report on changing Spain

or his many critics at home,
José María Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, has made a facile target. His stern Castilian manner is not designed to win hearts. He is an awkward speaker, his body language gawky, his moustache faintly comical. In contrast to Felipe González, his Socialist predecessor, he has neither a winning wit, nor a demotic

Yet in his unembellished way, he can take quiet satisfaction from the way he has survived the many battles of his first seven months in office. As Prime Minister of the first right-wing Government to be elected in Spain since General Franco's death, he has had to contend with a bedrock of suspicion in a country still fearful of la derecha (the Right). That suspicion is not confined to Socialist voters, but extends historically even to the far-from-radical middle classes of Catalonia and the Basque country. The results of the general elec-

How Aznar's concessions ensure unity tion in March this year were the product of this fear of the Right. on

which the Socialists played skilfully in their election campaign. The Right is coming to get you," rasped Señor González to the accompaniment of video projections of fierce Dobermann pinschers. As a result, Señor Aznar's Popular Party (PP) won fewer seats than it ought to have, given the record of Senor González's last years in office. On reflection, however, this was

not a bad outcome for Spain. Having 20 MPs short of a majority, the PP was forced to court Spain's Catalan and Basque nationalists tas well as the Canary Islands Coalition), ensuring that the "dinosaurs" on the right of the party - Castilian centralisers with no stomach for such subversive THE POLETICAL SCREEN AND ADMINISTRA

ideas as regional autonomy were firmly sidelined. inevitably, the Government has had to pay a price for this support. particularly to the Catalans. By making a fresh demand almost every week, Jordi Pujol, the Catalan leader, has squeezed a succulent series of economic concessions in exchange for promises not to topple Señor Aznar.

Prosperous Catalonia can now keep 30 per cent of the taxes raised on its soil, as opposed to the previous limit of 15 per cent. Although Senor Puiol's appetite for more concessions seems insatiabie, the Government has defended its treatment of Catalonia as a way of inoculating Spain against political divisions such as those witnessed in Italy.

ut concessions to Catalonia have outraged sections of the opposition, particularly the socialist leaders of Spain's less prosperous regions. Senor Pujol has been addressed in a variety of unflattering ways. "Leech", "mercantilist" and "egotistical" are only a few examples. In a signed column last week, the feisty Pedro J. Ramirez, Editor of El Mundo. accused the Catalan premier of "taxi meter nationalism", because the meter of his demands never

In a letter published in El Pais, José Bono, the Socialist premier of

Castilla-La Mancha, exhorted Senor Pujol to show more solidarity with the poorer regions, saying he was sowing anti-Catalan senti-ments in the rest of Spain.

But although the Aznar Govern-

ment is, to a large extent, a hostage to nationalist demands, there is another long-term analysis which must be emphasised. The alliance with the nationalists has not only had a civilising effect on the Castilian Right, it is also begin-ning to remould the face of Spanish politics.

As one national newspaper put it last week, the partnership between the PP and the basically Christian Democrat Catalan and Basque nationalist parties "has opened up an historic opportunity for Spain's central and regional bourgeoiste to come together for the first time". The Basque and Catalan middle classes can comfortably be the natural partners of the PP, so long as the fragile autonomy questions are handled with care.

Proof of this arrived last week with the announcement by the Catalan nationalists that they proposed to support Senor Aznar's Government until 2000, when the next elections are scheduled to be

rguments which state that A the ceaseless concession of powers to the regions (particularly Catalonia) can lead to the eventual breakup of Spain fail to acknowledge that the country is now, effectively, quasi-federal. In

working to co-opt Spain's powerful regions into his political scheme, Señor Aznar can aspire, credibly. to curb their more lurid excesses, thereby taking advantage of this strategic convenience.

Strategic convenience, however, has not got in the way of strategic firmness, as is clear from the Government's laudable handling of the Basque terrorist problem. Jaime Mayor Oreja, the Interior Minister, has refused to bow to Basque nationalist demands for the transfer of convicted Eta terrorists to jails in the Basque country. By his insistence that the prisoners must stay dispersed for security reasons, Señor Mayor has obviously risked alienating the

Government's Basque allies.

But in refusing to yield on this issue, the Interior Minister has made it plain that concessions cannot always be made, even by a Government which must win Basque friends and influence Cata-

Good European determined to be in the vanguard

Triting recently in ABC, the oldest of Spain's newspapers. Fernando Rodrigo, a Profes-Madrid's Universidad Autónoma. described Spain's foreign policy as one guided by "a new ambition". His phrase serves as an invaluable starting point, capturing as it does the mixture of assertion and aspiration that defines Madrid's external

The European Union, of course, is at the centre of Spain's foreign policy. In many ways the country is "a good European". For historical reasons, there are fewer Eurosceptics per square mile in Spain than in any other major EU nation. After years of isolation under General Franco, which not only "left Spain behind" but also saddled the country with a peculiar inferiority complex in its dealings with "advanced Europe". Span-iards are now determined to run with the best in Europe, however punishing the pace.

This is nowhere more obvious than in the Government's pursuit of economic and monetary union. Spain's chances of being in the first tranche of single currency countries are not outstanding, but such prognoses seem only to have increased the tenacity of José Maria Aznar, the Prime Minister, and Rodrigo Rato, the Deputy Prime Minister, in charge of the economy.

Meeting the convergence criteria is seen as an acid test of the country's "seriousness". Not only did Señor Aznar rebuff an offer by Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, to form an Italo-Spanish lobby for a softening of the convergence criteria, he also boasted to the world that he had done so.

He was pilloried by many commentators in Spain for his "undiplomatic" behaviour towards Signor Prodi, but they were wrong. The Spanish Prime Minister knew what he was doing: he was letting it be known that Spain was simply not interested in any "Club Med" manoeuvres on EMU. "Spain is now a serious place", was his

message to the markets. Whereas the previous Socialist Government was under the German umbrella within the EU - due largely to the eagerness of Felipe Gonzalez, the former Prime Minister, to please Chancellor Helmut Kohi of Germany — the Aznar administration has gravitated perceptibly towards France. Senor Aznar speaks French, and has been

As Spain changes tack in the EU, Tunku Varadarajan examines the new Government's foreign policy



French connection: President Chirac has courted José María Aznar, the Prime Minister, assiduously

courted assiduously by President Chirac. Franco-Spanish relations have never been better, and Madrid has reaped important benefits

In exchange for a loose assurance to back France on EU issues, Spain has received unprecedented cooperation from the French Government in the fight against the

Basque terrorist group Eta, many of whose members have hide outs in the Basque region of France. Several recent arrests of Basque terrorists by French police have

served to cement this new bond between Madrid and Paris.

Equally, Franco-Spanish proximity has ensured that the North African Maghreb countries have received closer strategic attention from Brussels than was previously

Senor Aznar's much-touted "Atlanticism" has found expression in Spain's recent decision to integrate its armed forces into Nato's military command structure. Aware that its economic clout is relatively small, Madrid has learnt instead to emphasise its not insignificant military capacity. The Spanish presence in the United Nations peacekeeping force in Bosnia has been followed by Spain being one of the first countries to put troops on stand-by for humanitarian intervention in Zaire.

While the differences in foreign policy between this Government and the last are mainly ones of nuance, Cuba is an area where radical changes in policy have

occured Senor Aznar had a notably frosty encounter with Fidel Castro at the Ibero-American Heads of Government summit in Chile, and the Spanish Government has toiled hard to convince its European partners that the Cuban dictator must be stripped of EU trade and aid advantages.

The Helms-Burton law, however, is a different matter, penalising private businesses in Cuba, and the Spanish Government has joined the near-worldwide condemnation of "American extra-territorial pretensions".

ilateral relations with Britain remain occasionally troublesome, largely because of the contentious themes of fisheries and Gibraltar. The question of "quota hoppers" -Spanish fishing vessels flying a British flag of convenience, and thereby depleting Britain's rightful fisheries quota — continues to embitter the British Government. Recent intemperate interventions at EU fisheries meetings by Loyola de Palacio, the Spanish Minister for Fisheries and Agriculture, vividly illustrate the gulf that remains

between the two countries. The unresolved dispute over Gibraltar, too, shows no sign of improvement. Regrettably, Abel Manutes, Spain's plodding Foreign Minister, has shown little diplomatic finesse in his handling of the

Why the Press gang fails to inspire the public's interest

Spain's national newspapers are serious, biased and little read

There is a strong contrast between the British and Spanish press. Britain is a country of many national newspa-pers, with a high percentage of the adult population reading them. Spain is a country with only three national newspapers and fewer readers than in any other major European Country, Junku Varadarajan writes Only 10 per cent of adult Span-

iards buy a newspaper every day, while a healthier 33 per cent read one daily. By contrast, 40 per cent of adult Britons buy apaper, and a remarkable 86 per cent read one every day. How does one explain this difference. The answer does not lie of course in Spanish literacy rates, which are up to

the highest European stanshed light on the matter The Spanish

press can be inforiating. Nowhere else in the democratic world do news papers strive so hard to "improve" ; their readers, and do so little to entertain them. News and opinion are often blended together, and it is rare to find a

story without" some degree of "spin" on it. At the foreign of the light for the restoration of democratics of the light for the restoration of democratics. racy 20 years ago — a fight in which the Spanish press engaged with skill and intelligence — news-papers today are unsure of their role in a society which now has little time for contemplation and

takes its liberties for granted. Although most Spanish newspa-pers adopt the tabloid format, none is "tabloid" in the British sense. Anglo-Saxon style tabloids have been launched, and have failed, a reflection as much on the errors of their editors as on the cultural tastes of Spain's non-intellectual

classes. The latter are simply not instinctive readers - not even of low-brow newspapers — and pre-fer to glean information from radio and television. In any case, the traditional Spanish working-class interests of football and "celebritywatching" are catered for by specialist newspapers such as Marca and magazines like Hola.

Ideology distinguishes the three national newspapers. Although only 20 years old, El País claims to be Spain's leading newspaper. A delightful paper visually, its coltions of "progressive" philosophy. Closely identified with the former Socialist Government, its daily ...eirculation is a little over 400.000.

ABC, the oldest of the three, is Spain's most conservative newspaper, with a daily circula-330,000. Monarman Catholic, it is also elitist in its treatment of

cultural themes. The newspaper's opponents accuse it of kneejerk, right-wing responses, and there is some truth in the contention that a kind word for the . former Prime Minister, Felipe González, has never been printed on its

pages. The third national newspaper, El Mundo, is the youngest, founded in 1990. Few newspapers can be identified so closely with their editor as El Mundo is with the streetwise Pedro J. Ramirez

Pooh-poohed by its critics as sensationalist", it is the closest of any in Spain to a British newspaper and commands the largest readership among young adults.

Mention must be made of La Vanguardia, in many ways Spain's most poised newspaper. Mainly because it is published in Barcelona, it fails to sell as well across Spain as it deserves.

With his courage and his common sense, King Juan Carlos has retained the loyalty and affection of the Spanish through difficult times

Very model of a modern monarch

There are two areas in which King Juan Carlos has made a significant contribution to Spanish life over the past two decades. The first is that of foreign policy. Juan Carlos has been exceptionally active in this area, needing to make up for almost 40 years of relative international isolation, imposed on Spain as a result of the non-democratic nature of the Franco regime. Monarchs have traditionally been

regarded as excellent ambassadors because of their ability to represent and identify with their countries. This is particularly true of Juan Carlos, who is viewed abroad as the protagonist of a highly successful democratising process which has enabled Spain to play an increasingly prominent international

The monarchy has also proved extremely useful in helping to keep the new semi-federal Spanish state united. Democratic Spain is a "nation of nations", a country where almost a quarter of the population habitually speak languages

other than Spanish. Today Juan Carlos has become one of the world's most respected heads of state, as well as being extremely popular with his subjects. His standing both at home and abroad is generally attributed to his remarkable contribution to the establishment and consolidation of democracy in and possibilities. Although, at first, the Spain in the wake of General Franco's death in November 1975.

Above all, it was the King's brave performance on the night of February 23, 1981, when he aborted a military coup staged by a handful of die-hard Francoists, that won the hearts as well as the minds of his fellow countrymen.

Since then, the consolidation of Spanish democracy has gradually allowed the King to adopt a lower political profile, and to settle into a role not unlike that of other European monarchs. Close ties with other royal families greatly facilitated this task, as was evident in the state visit to Britain in April 1986, during which he became the first European monarch to have addressed the assembled Houses of Parliament.

Ithough the monarchy is probably A marginally less popular in the Basque country and Catalonia than elsewhere, the King has often been successful in defusing tensions between Madrid and the regions and in underpinning the loyalty of moderate peripheral nationalists to the Spanish state.

The remarkable popularity of the Spanish royals is partly attributable to the King's skill in matching the size and style of his monarchy to Spain's needs prospect of becoming King of a country that had overthrown his grandfather in 1931 filled Juan Carlos with apprehension, he was very fortunate to be able to start afresh. His decision to live at La Zarzuela Palace, a building not unlike the Prime Minister's own residence, rather than in the massive Royal Palace in Madrid, which is only used for state

occasions, is most telling.

As the king himself has jokingly remarked, unlike the Duke of Edinburgh he has never had to worry about his tea arriving cold because of the vast distance between the kitchen and his private apartments.

Spaniards on the whole believe their monarchy to be good value for money. In 1996 taxpayers provided the Casa del Rey (royal household) with a budget of about £5 million a year, much of which is intended to cover its running costs.

The rest goes towards the "salaries" of

the King, the Queen, Crown Prince Felipe and the King's two daughters, which are freely determined by Juan Carlos. The Spanish royals pay income tax and have relatively little inherited property or wealth of their own. Their lifestyle is comfortable rather than huxurious.

exurious.

The king and queen, who both love of Juan Carlos of Spain, self-made monarch (St. Antonys/Macmillan, London, 1996).

sailing, spend their summers in Palma de Mallorca, and go skiing in the Spanish Pyrenees during the winter. Until the late Eighties the Spanish media showed remarkably little interest in the royals' private lives. This has often been attributed to the political importance of the King's role during the early years of his reign, and the media's reluctance to undermine it.

n addition, Queen Sofia, Prince Felipe and the infantas have generally shown remarkable discretion and commonsense.In the early Nineties, however, Juan Carlos's private life - and that of his heir - came under increasing scrutiny to the extent that some observers feared Spain had been infected by the British malaise.

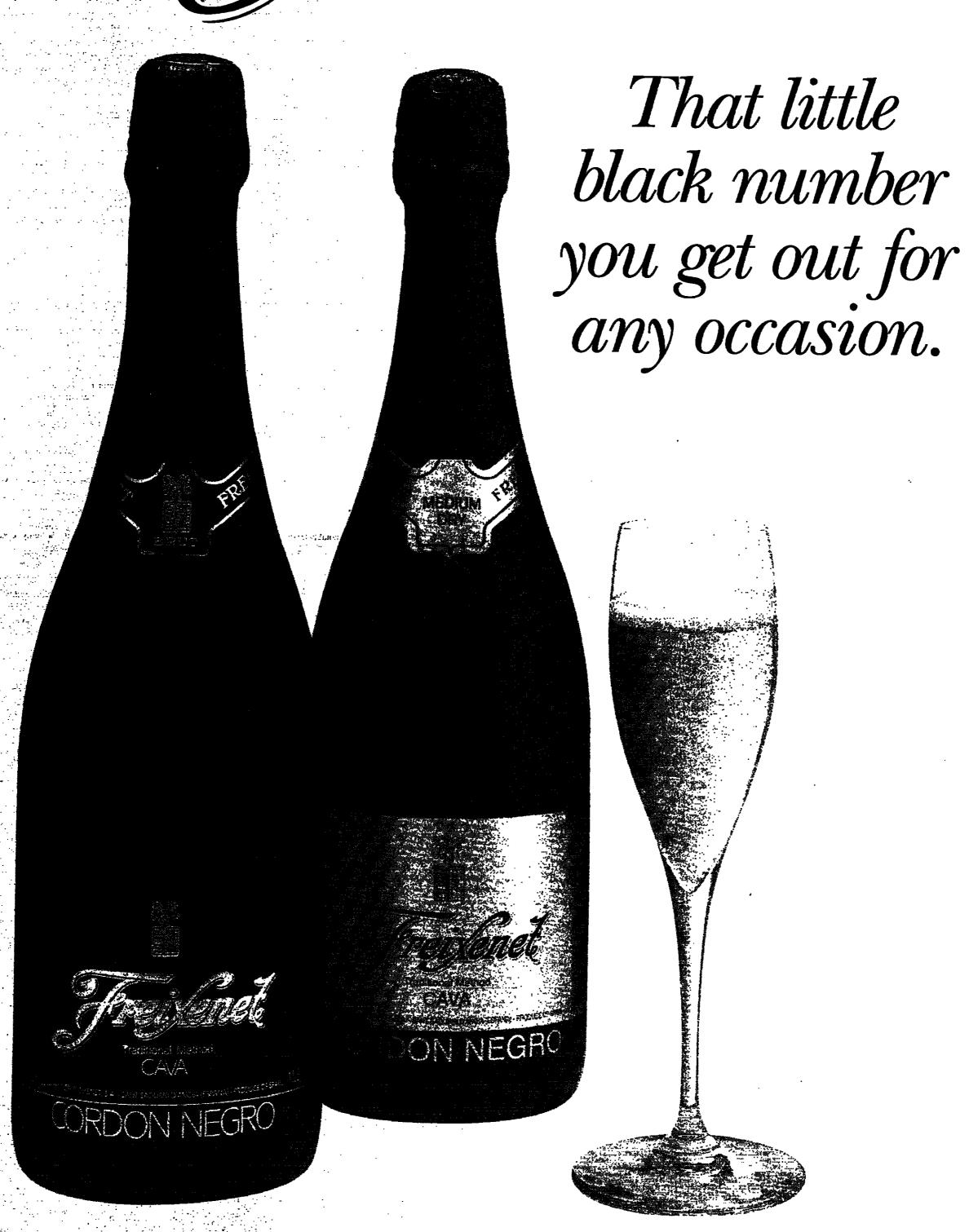
However, the political problems plaguing Spanish life in recent years have been so severe that the press is once again exercising considerable self-restraint, allowing the King to get on with a job which most Spaniards still see as vital to the well-being of their country.

CHARLES POWELL

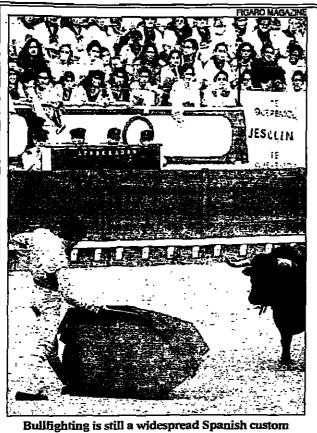
Charles Powell, an historian, is the author



The King with Crown Prince Felipe a comfortable, not luxurious, lifestyle



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Making up for lost time

pain has changed, more profoundly perhaps than even the Spaniards themselves dare to believe. Crossing into the country from France, or flying in from Heathrow, one is struck not so much by the difference in Spain's efficiency and infrastructure as by its powerful likeness to the rest of Europe. Brash, gleaming and up-todate, the country now takes its modernity for granted, arguably for the first time in its erratic history.

That has not, of course, prevented Spaniards from clinging tenaciously to some habits which will always distinguish them from other peoples. Bullfights are alive and well (although the bulls' horns are now frequently blunted), siestas are still taken in the countryside and long, languid lunches are eaten every day from 2.30 to 4.30. even by those in professions

countries in which the "hud-

deadlines. But young Spaniards are taller than generations past. They drink more beer and less wine, speak foreign languages, travel abroad to places such as India and Namibia, go to church only occasionally, pay less heed to flamenco music, kiss and cuddle in public, and eat hamburgers. More profoundly. Spain to-

day has a new self-esteem. The "democracy generation", unlike its predecessors, has no sense of being second best. Membership of the EU, and a string of free elections, have brought confidence to Span-Spain also boasts today that most perverse of modern sta-

tus symbols, an illegal immi-gration problem. After decheads, and frequently frisked ades of being a country of Yet in other respects, Spain emigrants, Spain has now has seen the entrenchment of healthy trends. Women have

and as widely employed as they are today. Besides, they wear short skirts, dye their dled masses" of the Third hair, smoke, and are liberated from the old sexual taboos. World aspire to live. Proximity to North Africa has brought While machismo is not a a steady flow of "wetbacks", thing of the past, the Spanish men and women from the male is now no less enlight-Maghreb, Nigeria, or Equatoened than his counterparts in rial Guinea, who risk their other Western countries. · lives in flimsy boats trying to Within a single generation

cross the Strait of Gibraltar. Spain has achieved a remark-This immigration has its able degree of equality beugly face. Although Spain is tween the sexes. This has led still a tolerant society, racism to some unfortunate sidehas grown and it is not effects, of course. Spain's birth rate has plummeted and is uncommon to hear pejorative references to moros and today, at 1.2 babies per mothsudacas - Moors and South er, the lowest in the world. Americans - on whom all crime tends to be blamed. Political modernity has brought a widespread rejec-Dark-skinned foreigners are sometimes assaulted by tion of religion. In this, as in their aspirations and cultura generale, the "new Spancabezas rapadas, or skiniards" are now part of the European mainstream.

> TUNKU Varadarajan



Flamenco is now less popular than disco dancing

Pack your suntan cream and slippers

BRITONS IN SPAIN

the "swallow season" is just beginning. About 400,000 Britons will be wintering in the warmth of Spain as usual, escaping from the low temperatures and high heating bills back home.

David Alexander, the British Consul-General in Madrid, estimates that there are about 200,000 Britons who own property in Spain and live there permanently. Considering the size of the community, there are relatively few problems, he says. "They live in harmony with the Spaniards, who have a live-and-letlive attitude and no deep-seated antagonism towards Britons."

John Seth-Smith, the honorary British Consul in Benidorm, says the most common problems are associated with the language barrier and property purchases.

David Searl, an American jour-

nalist who has settled on the Costa del Sol, writes the bible for ex-pats, You and the Law in Spain. He warns people coming to Spain with the intention of buying a property and perhaps settling on retirement not to "leave their brains at the airport when they arrive. Many ignore the simplest rules about house or apartment purchase". Contrary to popular opinion,

some expatriates are far from standoffish. Joan Hunt, 67, from Brentwood in Essex, has just been voted Personality of the Year on the Costa del Sol by an overwhelming number of readers of the English edition of the local Sur (South) newspaper. "I used to come to Spain on holiday with my husband Fred, and when back at work, would think wouldn't it be lovely to live in Spain one day?" " she says. They did just that when she retired from a senior post at Berger Paints and Fred quit his job as an electrical engineer.

"In 1984 we sold our house and came to Fuengirola with our dog and our furniture." she says. "I don't think anyone is prepared for the culture shock of trying to get things done. We suddenly found ourselves facing a lot of paperwork and bureaucracy, but it was the way of life and we had to adapt.

"If you're going to change your life, you have to be prepared to change lots of things. I attended Spanish lessons but at first they went in one ear and out the other.



Sun, music and food and drink whenever you want it the relaxed life attracts many Brits to Spain

I'm still learning, but I can get by." Basil Cudlipp-Green, 73, is a former world ice-skating champion from Brighton who lives in Denia. His great strength and wicked sense of humour helped him to beat

cancer after he had moved to Spain with his female companion, Paddy.
"I wanted a change of life," he says. "I bought a boat, sailed out here 23 years ago, liked it and stayed. I got a bit fed up here and

started coaching youngsters in Madrid and Vitoria. A prophet in another country does very well. The Spaniards have a fantastic feeling for music, but their temperament is more fiery than the British. When

indeed. When they are interested in something, the mañana system does not apply."

He spent a year back in Britain fighting off his cancer. After his

recovery, he bought a 24ft sailboat and brought her back to Denia.

"The first appeal of Spain is the climate," he says. Then the relaxed way of living. I like to have a brandy and coffee at five or six in the morning, if I want. Friends here are so much more close-knit. They are all adventurers who have packed up from England to come and live here, so they take time to look after each

Many older people who retire to Spain suffer problems of illness they had not anticipated. For Mrs Hunt, tragedy struck in 1991 when Fred became ill and was diagnosed with cancer. "When you come out here to live, everything is good. But suddenly, when you've got a problem, you feel a little bit alone in a strange

country," she says.

After her husband's death, she founded Cudeca to care for terminally ill cancer patients. "You know," she says, "there are some very tragic cases out here."

EDWARD OWEN

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Efficiency and savings programmes have enabled the Basque Country as a whole to reduce energy consumption by 14% since 1980. The area cu-

trently depends on oil for 36.7% of the energy it needs. Power sources have been diversified in recent years, with particular attention being poid to natural gas, which has its own gas field and modern distribution network



SPAIN'S INDUSTRIAL POWER HOUSE

Much of Spain's production in a number of strategic sectors comes from the Basque Country: machine-tools, the outomolive ancillary industry, capital

goods and the Iron and steel industry. The Basque Country is also home to the Mondragon Corporación Cooperativa (MCC), the world's largest industrial cooperative group, and iberdroia. Europe's fifth largest power



AND GUARANTEES

Treasury bonds issued by the Basque Government have been given on Ao2 rating by American

ratings agency Moody's and AA by Standard & Poor's. Among the most noteworthy tax incentives for the year are the general rate of company tax of 32.5% and on outright grant of up to 25% for new investments.





more than 900 professionals; the largest science and technology park in northeastern Spain; engineering firms and other companies involved in International research projects: LHC particle accelerator (CERN-Geneva): the European Space Agency and NA-SA; the EURECA (European Retrievable Carrier) Platform, currently in orbit and the Polar Platform, in collaboration

with the International Freedom Station in Columbus.

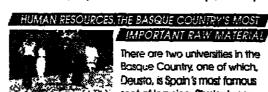


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IMPORTANT RAW MATERIA There are two universities in the Basque Country, one of which, Deusto, is Spain's most famous

seat of learning. Students can choose from 22 faculties 8 technical and 3 Higher colleges and schools. The Basque Country also has 172 voca-



A UNIQUE, AGE-OLD CULTURE Euskera, the Basque language.

Part of mankind's linguistic heritage. Euskera is the oldest language in Europe, a survival from



the pre-indo-European era.

AN UNRIVALLED NATURAL SETTING

The UNESCO recently declared the Gernika estuary a "Biosphere Reserve". According to the 1992

Economic Report on the Spanish Autonomous Communities, the Basque Country has the most complete environmental protection infrastructure in all Spain.



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Lauvui iaws ai e iiic biggest challenge

B ankers are cautiously optimistic, business men say the general trend is upwards, financial analysts think the new Government is being pragmatic and the stock exchange is at a record high. The Spanish economy is slowly but surely

coming out of the doldrums. As usual, the pace will quicken only if it does so in the rest of Europe. But all the forecasts for next year show further growth - 25 per cent or more compared to 1.9 per cent this year — and lower inflation, below the target of

3.5 per cent set for 1996. Last week Luis Angel Rojo, governor of the Bank of Spain, told the Senate budget committee: "It is most des able that Spain joins the group of countries founding monetary union." He was optimistic that inflation would drop to 3.3 per cent this year but said it might be

torpedoed by salary increases. The Government is coping reasonably well on the fiscal side for the challenges of 1997, although I'm sure it is not Henrik Lumholdt, chief econ-omist with the Bank of America in Madrid, "More reforms, not just spending cuts, are

"The economy is not showing signs of recovering in a big way, although the growth Edward Owen reports on

> expected growth and

lower inflation

rate this year is still better

than in the rest of Europe." The governing Popular Party's first budget decreed a wage freeze for civil servants, cutbacks in public spending, the raising of \$23 billion (£13.7 billion) through privatisation of industries, labour reforms, transfers to the autonomous regions and incentives to in-

Although consumer confidence has yet to be restored, yet another good year for urism has boosted revenues in the expanding services sector, which accounts for about 60 per cent of the economy. Most analysis agree that

one of the biggest challenges the Government faces is to reform Spain's labour laws which are probably the most protected and regulated in Europe - through a new

Although employment has grown by about 25 per cent during the past year, Spain's onemployment rate of about 22 per cent is the worst in Europe, although an estimated one million people are working in the black market. Jorge Fernandez Diaz, the Secretary of State with responsibility for Spain's 17. autonomous regions, is stung by criticism that major fiscal concessions to the regions have been made only in exchange for regional nationalist parties support for the

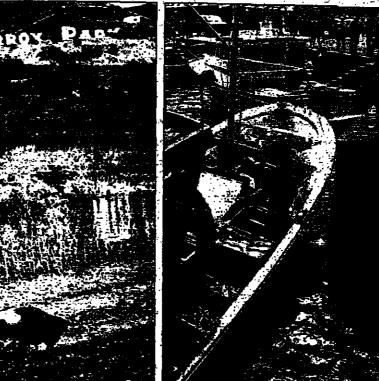
minority Government

"No way are the conces

sions too much," Senor Diaz ys. The Spanish economy will be more efficient." But critics sense a growing imbal-ance between richer Spain — the Balearies and the Mediterranean regions — and the poorer Andalucia in the south and Extremadura to the west. Joaquin Tamames, managing director of Axel Invest-ment Bank in Madrid, says: "Privatisation will be very positive Repsol, Endesa and Telefonica are leading commies in their sectors and

have a good foundation.*

He also thinks the deregulation is being handled well by the Government. "1999 will be the big bang, followed by a series of convulsions. Then Spain will be in a much better position," he says.



The ploughman and the fisherman, symbols of old Spain that are rapidly changing

Airlines boost the travel industry

TOURISM

pain has benefited from an unexpected increase in the number of tourists this year. This coincides with greatly increased competition on all air routes, greater profits by hotel chains and considerable private investment at the top of the market.

This good news is spelt out by government figures show ing that the number of visitors in the first nine months of the year increased by 8.7 per cent to 33.5 million. In the first eight months net income increased by 7.7 per cent to 1.9 trillion pesetas (E9.5 billion). The all-round increase came as Easy-let and Debonair opened up new budget routes between Britain and Spain; Virgin launched European

connections and Iberia and Air Europa battled for clients. For the first time. Spaniards can fly within their country for near-sensible fares. But all ing delays at the busiest airport, Barajas in Madrid which is being expanded. Tourists on domestic routes, especially around the Balearic and Canary Islands, are now starting to fly in British-built unboprogis. Air Europa, the leading independent airline in Spain, is flying the first ones -acquired in a \$30 million deal

with British Aerospace. The state-run chain of Parador hotels, mainly located in historic buildings, in creased its profits fourteenfold to £3.5 million last year. But it resurrected plans to sell off a clutch of loss-making establishments. Sol Melia, the biggest hotel group, which was partially floated on the stock exchange in July, announced a 32.6 per cent increase in profits to £22.5 million for the first nine

months of the year. This month the Hotel Termes Montbrió, a hotel, spa and conference complex opened near Tarragona. The £7.5 million investment by an Andorran company has produced a 150-room complex se in 40 acres, only the second four-star hotel on the Costa Dorada Joan Armengol, managing director of the Roc Blane Group, its owners, says: "We think the future of tourism lies in appreciating nature, giving space to breathe fresh air and enjoying tranquillity "

The regional government in Tenerife hopes to sound the death knell for lager louts by moving tourism in the Canary Islands towards business conventions and luxury holidays. Pedro Quintana, director of the Government's Tenerife Convention Bureau, says that the opening of three new convention complexes, together with a fourfold increase in luxury hotels, is changing the island's image. British residents, fed up

with timeshare tours and muggings, particularly wel-come the opening of the Mare Nostrum complex at Arona, not far from the Playa de Las Americas resort in the south of Tenerife: Five luxury sea-front hotels are grouped around the new Piramide convention centre, which can seat 2,000 people. Anna Maria Luyckx, a commercial director at the Piramide de Arona, says: Delegates are one minute from the beach and close to Los Cristianos port.

Earlier this year. Tenerife opened one of Europe's largest concert and fairs halls. With plans to expand the two airports, Señor Quintana hope the 300 congresses the island welcomes will increase and



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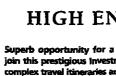
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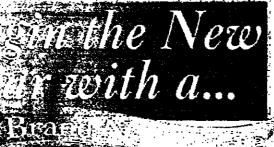
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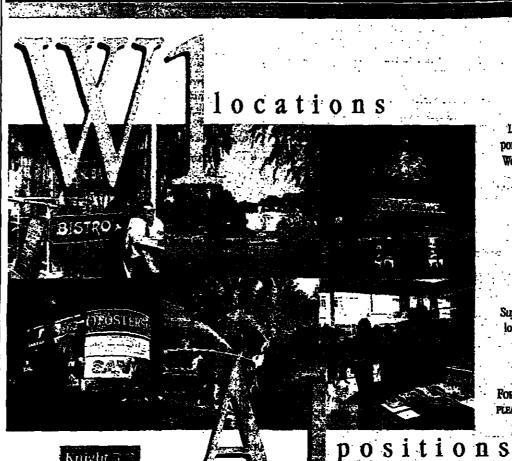
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What does 1997 have in store?

were wrong. Every proper-ty expert we asked last year for their predictions on what would happen to the market this year was overly pessi-

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mistic, including yours truly. Broadly speaking, forecasters said that prices would rise by 2 to 3 per cent. In fact prices are up by 7 per cent this year for property in general, according to the Halifax. and by anything up to 20 per cent for upmarket country houses and smart London town houses.

Each year we ask the same experts to forecast prices of different types of property such as country, new or London houses (given that there is no such thing as a single housing market) and record their predictions. This year there were brickbats all

round. The only rather small bouquet goes to Simon Agace from Winkworth, who was more bullish than most and said that London prices would be up by 8 per cent this year. In fact they were up by more in some areas - but still, this is what he predicts for the London market next

"If interest rates do not rise but inflation does, the market could become overheated, al-

though the indications are that purchasers may resist unsustainable price rises. The pound has already risen by 10 per cent and thisis likely to have an effect on the number of foreign purchasers in

Experts are bullish, predicting a 7 per cent rise thanks to continued low interest rates, a fully-priced stock market, the strengthening economy and City bonuses.

The general election is probably the biggest variable. Whoever wins. sales are expected to slow in April and May when an election is expected. So for those searching for the right home in a market dogged by scarcity, it could make more sense to move now rather than

Below we set out what the forecasters predict for 1997. **GENERAL**

We got it wrong. We said that

cent when they have risen by much

"Even we were taken aback by the speed of the turnaround, with the market going from doom and gloom in autumn 1995 to a real spurt by the spring of 1996. But our forecast for housing sales of 1.2 million looks accurate, and we were confident that London and the south of England would lead the

housing recovery — which it has.
"For 1997 we predict a 10 per cent increase during the year [well ahead of most other forecasters] with another 9 per cent in 1998."

Head of external relations, Council of Mortgage Lenders:

We

expect a

good,

strong

spring

market'

"We forecast a 3 per cent rise in house prices during the course of the year. We also expected to see

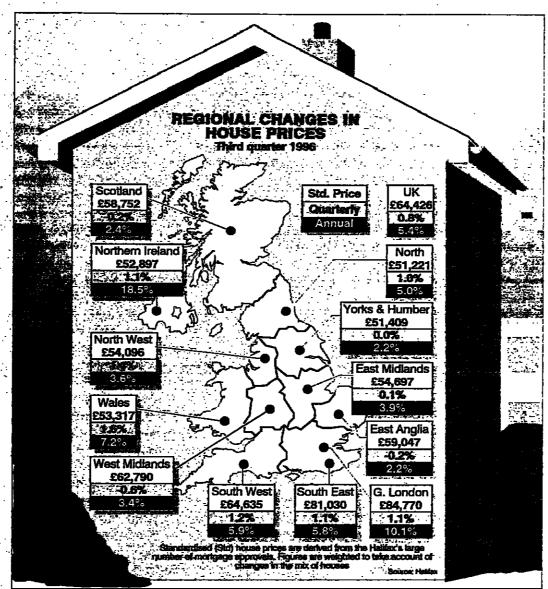
1.16 million house sales. In fact house prices will end the year 6 to 7 per cent higher, while housing transactions will probably be in line with our forecast. Although the house price figures appear more positive than our beginning-ofyear forecast, the market recovery remains patchy, with significant variations between different regions and different property types.

"The 1996 recovery has been unusual in that house price rises have not been accompanied by equally strong increases in sales, and this makes it difficult to anticipate future conditions. On balance, however, prices are likely to continue rising by 5 to 10 per cent, while transactions will experience a healthy increase to around 1.35 million.

Gary Marsh Assistant general manager, Halifax Corporate Affairs:

We predicted that interest rates would fall and tax cuts would boost incomes during 1996. Our prediction for house prices was a 2 per cent rise with transactions recovering their 10 per cent decline in the previous year. In fact they have risen by 7 per cent, so our forecast proved much too pessimistic. "House prices should continue to

rise in 1997 and 1998, with rises in both years of about 7 to 8 per cent



LONDON

Simon Agace Chairman of Winkworth:

"We predicted that houses would appreciate by more than the cost of your mortgage and by 8 per cent in London. On average, property prices in London did realise the 8 per cent that we predicted, but we were too cautious. There were many instances of price increases far above this level. Those areas that experienced the most dramatic rises were Islington, Notting Hill. North Kensington, Fulham, Clerk-

enwell and Blackheath, where average house price rises were in the region of 15 per cent and flat price rises in the region of 10 per cent. The main exception was Islington, where flat prices rose more steeply than house prices, showing around

a 20 per cent growth. In the prime areas of London the volume of property available for sale has steadily decreased as the new stock and much of the old has been sold during the course of the year. Anticipation of further price rises is keeping many homeowners from selling before 1997,

and the wide gulf between supply and demand has created artificia price rises that, in some cases, may prove to be unsustainable.

"In 1997, in some of the better secondary areas of London, for example around Wandsworth and Streatham Common, Highbury Fields, Tufnell Park and parts of Higheate or Crouch End, we expect rises of 15 per cent. In other residential areas such as Notting Hill and Kensington, however most buyers will resist substantial price rises because inflation and incomes are not in line with the appreciation already on the table. In Islington, however, which is historically undervalued, we expect 15 per cent price rises.

COUNTRY HOUSES

Rupert Sweeting of Knight Frank:

"We said that in 1996, prices for the right country house with no blemishes could reach or exceed 5 per cent but that other country houses would show only a 1 to 2 per cent increase. In fact, for the right house, rises have exceeded 5 per

"What we did not forecast was the continued shortage of supply of property - which has meant that prices have risen by 8 to 10 per cent on average countrywide, 12 io 15 per cent in the South East. Where the property has been considered a gem' and competitive bidding has

been created, premiums of 20 per cent over the guide price were record-ed in a few cases.

"We also predicted that the first half of 1996 would be more active than the past six months this is partly true. although again we did not anticipate the strength of the autumn market, which can be put down to the short supply. In many areas supply has dropped

year on year. We expect a good, strong spring market with perhaps a quieter summer. With people taking stock of the election result, we anticipate another strong au-

tumn market. We predict rises of between 5 and 10 per cent for the market as a whole. However, some areas will experience greater rises. In 1997 we hope to see more property coming on to the market as a result of house prices going through the levels they reached at the peak of the market in

The foreign investor will still be an important element at the top end of the market, although we expect that the ratio of UK purchasers to international investors will swing back in favour of the UK investor as the pound rises against foreign currencies.

NEW HOMES

David Mote The House Builders' Federation: "We said prices would rise by 2.5 per cent in 1996, when in fact they have risen by about 7 per cent. Along with other commentators, I think we underestimated how the lack of available property would

push prices up. "As confidence returns and house building starts to increase, we believe that property prices will rise by a further 7 per cent at a steady rate in 1997. There is no boom in prices but more planning permission must be given for new building if next year's demand is to

TOP OF THE MARKET

William Gething Property Vision

Experts

bullish,

predicting

a 7 per

cent rise

We predicted that growth would be modest during 1996 - by about 3 per cent. We also said that the top end of the market would outperform the rest, due to the

> perennial shortage of really good family houses both in the country and in central mainstream market outperformed our predictions considerably. with growth of between 7 and 10 per cent depending on which index you look at. "We have certainly

seen increases of 20 per cent for the best country houses and estates and the same rate of increase for topquality family houses and good investment flats in London.

The latest GDP growth figures show slower growth than for the same period last year, and interest rates are likely to rise rather than fall during the next 12 months. Logically, therefore, the market should steady. However, applying the brake to the feel-good factor in the property market has been notoriously difficult and our view. therefore, is that this growth will continue for the next 12 months.

Bear in mind that in real terms. prices are still way below their peak of the late 1980s, so there is room for further growth.

The market will go into neutral for two to three months around the election. But international investors will continue to buy in London even if Labour is elected, provided Gordon Brown does not try to score political points by changing the non-domicile tax rates. We expect rises of 10 per cent."

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last and

this nce since the authorities admitted that

they owed a duty of care to the

plaintiffs and that the discharge of

their duty involved the need to

inform the patients of the fact that

they had been treated by a health

care worker who had proved to be

HIV possitive, they were obliged to

convey the information in such a

way as to reduce the foreseeable

minimum. That, he said, repre-

sented the standard duty of care

and was in fact the standard of

care which the judge had applied.

However, once the authorities had decided to inform their pa-

tients at all, they were under a duty

to take such steps to inform then

as were reasonable, having regard

both to the foreseeable risk that some of them might suffer psychi-

atric injury, or any existing psychi-atric injury might be materially aggravated, on receipt of the information and to all the other

That was not a situation in which it was particularly useful for

a court to investigate the previous

practices of reasonably competent

practitioners when handling a similar situation. With the single

no previous experience in this county and the evidence showed

that the nature of peoples ir-

rational concerns, anxieties and

ignorance about HIV and AIDS were, certainly in 1991, to a great

On the one hand, therefore, the

judge was wrong to hold that the

authorities were negligent because they did not select the best method.

On the other hand in the particular

circumstances, Mr Armitage was

too narrowly when he cited the

Bolam test as providing the sol-

ution because there simply was no adequate well of professional

experience on which the court could usefully draw in the present

confining the freedom of the

extent sui generis.

rumstances of the case.

of harm to the plaintiffs to a

HIV risk warning letter lawful

A and Others v Tameside and Glossop Health Authority and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Brooke

Judgment November 131 A health authority, finding one of its health workers to he HIV positive and deciding to inform certain patients of the very remote risk of their having been intected. was not in breach of its dury of care to those patients by informing

most of them of that risk by letter. Notwithstanding that the best method of avoiding the risk of causing shock, distress or psychiatric injury to petients was for a suitably qualified person to give the information to them face to face, the health authority had acted reasonably in all the circumstances and was not negligent in deciding to break the news in the

way that it had.

The Court of Appeal so held. allowing an appeal by Tameside and Glossop Health Authority and Trafford Health Authority from liability only by Mr Justice French given in Manchester on January 31, 1995, whereby he held that they were in breach of their duty of care to the plaintiffs, some 114 patients out of more than 900, all of whom had had obstetric treatment from

the health worker. The court also dismissed a crossappeal by the plaintiffs arising out of complaints by them of their treatment by the health authorities after they had received the

Mr E. K. Armitage, QC and Mr Philip Holmes for the health authorities: Mr Daniel Brennan. QC and Mr Mark Laprell for the

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE said that in 1991 the two health authorities faced the problem of deciding whether, and if so, how to break the news to their relevant patients or former patients that a health

worker who had given obstetric treatment to women patients was HIV positive and that there was a very remote risk of infection from that source.

The judge had held that they had both acted in breach of a duty they owed the plaintiffs in connection with that task.

The case broke no new ground so far as the faw was concerned although there appeared to be no previous reported English case in which liability in negligence had heen imposed on someone for communicating accurate, but distressing news in a careless

manner. For the health authorities, it was conceded that a duty to take reasonable care existed where the elevant relationship was between them and their patients.

The history started in 1988 when a trainee surgeon in Exeter was found to be suffering from AIDS. The names of 269 patients on whom he had operated or asisted were identified and each had been informed face to face that there was a remote chance of infection his general practitioner Thereby, the chance had been provided to offer any necessary counselling and reassurance in the light of an individual patient's

In the instant case it was decided in principle that on the ground of openness and the patients who had right to know should be told about the health worker, despite the remoteness of any risk, and that they should be offered ng and/or blood testing. The patients' general prac-titioners were sent letters telling

them what was afoot and asking

why the standard form of letter should not be sent to any particu-The main thrust of the plaintiffs' claim was that it was reasonably

foreseeable that a recipient of the

authorities did not exercise due care. He said that they should have realised that the best method of informing a patient of the risk of HIV or AIDS, even though the risk night be very remote, was face to face through the agency of the parient's GP or other experienced health worker, and that to give that information by letter carried a foreseeable risk that some vulnerable individuals might suffer psychiatric injury going beyond the shock and distress which was

most individuals. But the judge had failed to take account of all the evidence and the health authorities criticisms of his judgment were well founded.

natural and foreseeable in all or

Further. Mr Armitage argued that the judge had applied the wrong standard of care, the standard he had applied requiring the authorities to use the best method without regard to circumstances.

The relevant standard of care, he said, was to take reasonable care in all the circumstances.

The legal concept of negligence, he submitted, required that relevant acts or omissions should be judged in the particular circumstances of the particular case see Billings (A. C.) and Sons Ltd v Riden ([1958] AC 240, 250 and 257) and Bolam v Friern Hospital Management Committee ([1957] | WLR 582, 586].

Mr Armitage then submitted that the standard which should have been applied was what he called the modified standard required of those who profess special competence, in this case public health medical practitioners, that was to say the standard of the ordinary skilled practitioner in that field, gauged by the approbabody of professional opinion: see Whitehouse viorder discussions ise v Jordan (Ji981) I WLR 246. 258) and Maynard v West

In such a case the judge had to perform the familiar role of considthe factual evidence carefully, listening to the expert evidence and forming a view as to whether in all the circumstances the health authorities fell below the standards reasonably to be expected of them when they selected their preferred method of communicating the information to the

When the appropriate legal test was applied to the totality of the factual evidence that the judge should have taken into account. the only possible conclusion was that the authorities were not negligent in deciding to break the news in the way they did. Lord Justice Nourse and Lord

Justice Kennedy gave concurring Solicitors: Hempsons: P. M. Beever & Co, Ashton-under-Lyne.

earlier date to be set aside in the special circumstances which had arisen: the collapse of the beef

Disclosure of background proper

Another

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Land Justice Judge

[Judgment November 14] It was perfectly proper for a judge to admit evidence as to the ongoing dispute between the financial backer of a plaintiff in a libel action and the defendants so as to show the backer's motivation in being involved in the case.

Without that information, the jury would not have been able to make an informed judgment as to the reality of the alleged injury to the plaintiff's feelings by the publication of the original libel to one Belgian living in Spain who was unknown to the plaintiff.

The Court of Appeal so held by majority (Lord Justice Staughton dissenting) in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by the plaintiff. Fiona Broxton, painst the decision of Mr Justice Allion and a jury on February I. 1996 when he gave judgment for the first defendant, Arden Guy McClelland, the group managing director of the second defendant,

Mr Isaac Jacob and Mr Patrick Moloney for the plaintiff: Mr Patrick Milmo, QC and Mr Wil-

Norling and Another v Eez-Away (UK) Ltd and Others

Before Mr Justice Jacob

liam Bennett for the defendants. LORD JUSTICE SWINTON THOMAS said that the plaintiff.

who was then Avril Fiona Shevill. did a number of student jobs during a gap year before university. In the summer of 1989 she was employed as a cashier by a company called Chequepoint Sarl.

been employed by Chequepoint. He left them in 1988 and set up a company called Maccorp which traded as a competitor in the bureau de change business. From that point onwards there had been rivalry, bad blood and much litigation between the two organ-On September 19, 1989

Chequepoint's premises were raided by the French police. A number of the employees, including the plaintiff were arrested. Some convictions followed but the plaintiff was completely innocent.

The plaintiff left the employment

of Chequepoint on September 23, having worked for them for just under two months. On September 27 an article appeared in the French newspaper, France Soir which was libellous of the plaintiff.

On October 17, 1989
Chequepoint and the plaintiff commenced proceedings in England against France Soir and on

Power to allow amendment to patent

lished a retraction and apology. France Soir had a circulation of about 250 copies in England. There was no evidence at the trial from any person who had read the offending article.

In the early part of 1991, Mr McClelland, anxious to take over Chequepoint's premises on the Costa del Sol in Spain, sent a copy of the article to the landlord of those premises, together with an English translation.

He made no mention of the retraction and did not send a copy of that. There was therefore no doubt that the article was defamatory of the plaintiff and that in sending the copy, the first defen-dant had published it. The question which arose was as to whether as a result of it.

as a result of it.

The first and primary point taken on behalf of the plaintiff was that the judge should not have admitted any evidence in relation to the ongoing dispute between Chequepoint and Mr McClelland. It was submitted that the case wrongly disintegrated into a dispute between Chequepoint and Mr McClelland, instead of a libel action brought by the plaintiff and Mr McClelland.

In his Lordship's judgment, in

making any assessment of whether the plaintiff had really suffered damage to her feelings hi the re-publication of the original libel to one Belgian living in Spain who was unknown to her. It was highly relevant for the jury in know that her litigation was being funded by Chequepoint, that re-publication was brought to her attention by Chequepoint's solictiors, and the nature of the ongoing dispute between Chequepoint and Mr McClelland.

Without that information the jury could not make any informed judgment as to the reality of the alleged injury to her feelings by that publication and having heard the evidence, they found that there

Lord Justice Judge delivered a concurring judgment.

STAUGHTON, dissenting, said that it escaped him how the conduct of Chequepoint was relevant to mitigation or reduction of damage. In his Lordship's judg-ment the plaintiff had legitimate grounds for complaint as to the conduct of the trial and his Lordship would have set aside the verdict and order a new trial.

Solicitors: O'Callaghan & Cu. Bindman & Parmers.

and psychiatric illness as a result. No compensation order against insured driver

McDermott v DPP

A driver who had caused loss or damage and failed to provide his insurance details to the other driver could not be treated as uninsured under section 35(3) of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act

1973 when in fact he was insured. The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Gage) so held on October 10 when allowing in part an appeal by way of case stated by Stanley Thomas McDermott from the dismissal by Croydon Crown Court Judge Pullinger and jus-

FRANCE

tices) on June 21, 1995 of his appeal from his conviction by Bromley Justices of, inter alia, failing to stop after an accident contrary to section 170 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and to uphold the compensation order made against him by the magistrates under section 35(3) of the 1973 Act, as substituted by section 104 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.

The appellant, after colliding with another vehicle, had not been asked by the other driver to provide his insurance details nor had be volunteered them.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that it was a clear statutory precondition to an award of compensation under section 35(3) that an offender was uninsured. The appellant was not uninsured nor was he under a statutory obligation to disclose his insurance details as that only arose under section 154 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 when such details had been demanded by a person

making a claim. Accordingly the appeal against the compensation order would be Ljudgment November 121 When a party to an action for patent infringement put in issue the validity of the patent, the by section 75(1) of the Patents Act 1977 to allow an amendment to the

patent continued even if the challenge to validity was subsequently Mr Justice Jacob so held in the

Patents Court of the Chancery Division on a preliminary point in an action by the plaintiffs. Lars Eric Norling and Proman Technology AB, against the defendants, Eez-Away (UK) Ltd, Dawn Meats (UK) Ltd. Romford Wholesale Meats Ltd and Beck Foods Ltd. Mr Richard H. Miller, QC. for the plaintiff; Mr Mark Platts-

Mills, QC, for the defendants. MR JUSTICE JACOB said that the trial date for the patent infringement action was set for April 1997, the court having acceded to an application for an market. The patent was for a

useful for beef By a defence and counter-claim in September 1994 the validity of the patent was put in issue and the court was thereby given jurisdic-tion by section 75(1) of the 1977 Act to permit an amendment to the

diction in May 1995 by a notice of motion for leave to amend. Prior to that they had followed the preliminary procedure laid down by Order 104, rule 3 of the Rules of the Supreme Court whereby the pro-posed amendment was advertised so that any third party might learn of it and join in the proceedings to

No objectors appeared when the motion came before the court and the court ordered that the application for leave to amend he heard with the trial and that prior to that there should be pleadings and the service of evidence on the permissibility of the amendment.

Pleadings were duly exchanged and affidavit evidence filed by both

ings were ready for hearing.

However, the defendants no longer thought it necessary to challenge the validity of the patent. although they still contested infringement. They sought and were granted leave to withdraw their defence and counterclaim based on validity.

Thus at present, apart from the question of amendment, there was

solely the issue of infringement pending before the court. The question was whether the court still had jurisdiction to consider the amendment or whether that jurisdiction went

when the issue of validity went out

of the case. His Lordship said that the answer to that question depended on the construction of the relevant provisions of the 1977 Act and the Patents Act 1949. Those were similar but not exactly the same.

In regard to the 1949 provisions the effect of the Court of Appeal's decision in Lever Brothers and Unilever's Patent ((1955) 72 RPC 198) was that jurisdiction was lost as soon as proceedings for the revocation of the patent ceased.

Comparing the 1977 provisions with the 1949 provisions conferring jurisdiction on the court to allow amendment, under section 30(1) of the old Act the language conferred jurisdiction in "any action for the proceedings before the court for

revocation of a patent. That meant, according to the Lever Brothers decision, any pending such disputes.

But the current provision was

worded differently. Jurisdiction was conferred in any proceedings in which "the validity of a patent is

If that meant what it said, once

validity "is out" in issue, jurisdiction was conferred. It was the putting in issue which conferred jurisdiction, not whether or not

was the true construction. His Lordship said he was conscious that his decision left a number of oddities: for instance resulting in a difference between a case where a patentee simply sued for infringement, where a court had no jurisdiction, and a case where a patentee was left simply suing for infringement after a defendant had withdrawn his counterclaim, when according to the present decision, the court had

But one was left with oddities anyway. All that suggested was that the sooner the whole procedure of amendment of a patent was re-thought and provided for by amended statute and rules the

Preferably, so far as European patents were concerned, there should be one effective and cheap procedure. And any new system ought to prevent jurisdiction being switched on and off like an electric

For the present, however, the court continued to have jurisdiction to consider the proposed

Solicitors: Bristows Cooke & Carpmael; Stringer Saul.

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Juventus

had won the title, now known

as the Toyota Cup, emulating

the club's success in 1985,

although they had to wait until eight minutes from time

for Alessandro Del Piero to

For Marcello Lippi, the

Juventus coach, it was a

match that went almost per-

fectly to plan. We were able to play to our own rhythm

and I think we dominated. It

was a very good game, consid-

ering the temperature and

time difference from Europe.

We worked hard for three

years to bring ourselves up

to this level and I think

everybody in the team de-

serves credit for winning this

championship."
His opposite number, Ra-

mon Angel Diaz, was not about to argue that the better

team won. "It was a wonder-

ful game, It taught us that it is

not easy to become the world

champion. It gave precious

experience to Argentina soc-

The only goal came eight

minutes from time when An-

gelo Di Livio's corner was

flicked on to an unmarked

Del Piero, who had time

to control the ball before

giving the River Plate goal-

keeper, Roberto Bonano, no

chance with a fierce, rising

striking the crossbar.

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JUVENTUS (4-4-2): A Peruzo — S Pomnu,
C Ferrara, P Montero, M Tomcelli — A Di
Livo, D Deschemps Z Zidane (sub: A
Tacchinard 86mm); V Jugowc — A Del
Pero, A Bot-sic.

RIVER PLATE (4-3-1-2): R Bonano — H
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RUGBY UNION

Munster 19 Australia 55
Munster: Try, Keane Con: Keane Pens:
Keane 3 Dropped goet; Munsy Australia:
Tines: Carnosto 2 Fregan, Kelu, Linle,
Mundoch 2 Payne, Tune Const Larkham 5

(at Thomond Parl)
SCHOOLS MATCH: SI Benedict's, Ealing
16 St George's, Weylandge 16

SKIING

PARK CITY, Utah: Men's World Cup giant staton: 1, J Strobt (Austrie) 2mm 31 42:set; 2, H Knaus (Austrie) 2 31 84 3, M Von Gruengen (Switz) 2 31 95 4, F Myberg (Swe) 2 32 17, 5, P Hotzer (ft) 2 32:54 World Cup positions: Giant staton: 1, Von Gruengen 140pt. 2, Nauss 130 3, S Locher (Switz) 126 Overall: 1, Von Gruengen 154; 2, K A Aamodt (Nor) 136, 3, Knauss 130

SNOOKER

PRESTON: United Kingdom champ-ionahip: Third round: A McAlanus (Scot) bt B Shaddon (Scol) 9-5, M Wildems (Wates) bt N Bond (England), 9-4, A Drago (Maite) leads J Haggns (Scot) 6-2 P Hunter (Eng) leads T Murphy (N liet 5-3

TENNIS

LEADING WORLD RANKINGS: Men: 1, P Sempras (US) 4,865pts, 2, M Chang (US) 3,597; 3, Y Katelinkov (Rus) 3,564, 4, G Koniservic (Cro) 3,425; 5, T Muster (Albuma) 3,166, 6, B Becker (Ger) 2,983 Womerc 1, 5, Graf (Ger); equal 2, M Setes (US) and A Sénchez Vicano (Sp), 4, M Hinge (Switz); 5, C Martinez (Sp), 6, A Huber (Ger)

cer circles."

shot

claim the winner.

1978, when they became the only Irish team to defeat the All Blacks to date. But yesterday, even though Munster played with tremendous spirit, there was to be no repeat of that memorable triumph. Munster kept in touch until early in the second half but, in the last 15 minutes, were assailed by a barrage of Australian scoring as the Wallabies ran in five tries.

at half-time. At that point, they brought on Peter Clohessy, the controversial Ireland prop. who had been suspended for 26 weeks after stamping on Olivier Roumat in the match against France in Paris last February, But, even his considerable presence was unable to stem the tide.

some hope of a comeback.

Coventry City Football Club launched a bid to take over the city's rugby club yesterday, and possibly share Highfield Road. Bryan Richardson, the City chairman, made clear his intentions in a statement read at a meeting of the rugby club called to approve a £lmillion investment from the property firm, Leander. Both bids will be investigat-

Munster had stayed in touch in the opening quarter. Toutai Kefu for the Australians were offset by two penalty goals kicked by Killian Keane, the stand-off half, and a well-taken dropped goal by Pat Murray, the full back. But the Australians piled on a further 14 points before the break as Steve Larkham, the full back, converted tries for David Campese and Sam

Munster prospects were improved at the restart, when Keane got in for their only try, which he converted himself. But Australia hit back six minutes later, when Owen Finegan, the NoS, stormed over and Larkham converted. Keane's third penalty goal kept Munster in touch and they struggled bravely but to little avail until the 68th minute. After that the floodgates opened and the Walla-

Little, Campese again and a final two by Alastair Mur-doch, a replacement wing. Ultimately, Munster were a disappointed side. They had won the Irish inter-provincial championship earlier in the season and had recorded good wins in the Heineken Cup against Milan and Wasps. But yesterday they had few answers to an Australian side that played with the elan for

40mm), Kaby replaced by L Dirmoon (Old Crescon), 40), Walsh replaced by M Lynch (Young Murster, 65) AUSTRALIA XV: S Larkham (Australian

Australia XV

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AUSTRALIA saved the best performance of their tour of Ireland until their final match,

Munster's problems began at the lineout, where they won hardly any possession. Nor were they able to compete at the rucks and mauls as the Australians came at them in wave after wave. Yet, even at the interval, there looked to be

ed by the rugby club.

Payne, the scrum half.

bies added tries by Jason

which their recent predecessors are remembered.

SCOREIS Murster Try: Keane Conversion: Yeane Dropped goal: Murster (3) Australia XV: Tries: Tune, kelu, Campese (2), Payne, Finegan, Little, Murdoch (2) Conversions: Larkvam (5)

JUVENTUS began the season with three objectives -FROM KARLJOHNSTON

Thomond Park yesterday. This was the scene of Munster's greatest triumph, in

Munster were trailing 24-9

Indeed, the winning margin could have been greater. Having taken the lead, Juventus then wasted two further opportunities. Alen Boksic the Croatia international striker, the culprit each For their part, the Argentinians were left to wonder what might have been had Ariel Ortega's 72nd-minute shot, from what seemed an unlike-

Landram (5): P. Marrey (Shannon), Fl. Well-lace (Seracens), B. Walsh (Corl-Constitu-tion), S. McCahll (Sunday's Well), D. Crotty (Garryowen), K. Kenner (Garryowen), S. McLeot (Garryowen), J. Fitzgerald (Young Muncter), T. Kingston (Dolphin), N. Heatly (Shannon, capitan), D. Kirby (Old Crescent), D. Corkey (Bristol), B. Coronin (Garryowen), Heatly replaced by P. Glohessy (Garryowen), Althony K. Rivy verblaced by L. Dinnen, (Old

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 27 1996

FOOTBALL

Arsenal's self-belief faces test at Anfield

ARSENAL have often been string trouble would give the the team to beat; under Arsene Wenger, they are also becoming a team to watch. Today they face another serious test of their new-found quality if McManaman does not when they visit Anfield for make it. Evans's main decione of the outstanding ties in sion will be whether to stick the fifth round of the Coca-Cola Cup.

Liverpool have something to prove after two home draws that have cost them the chance to take over the leadership of the FA Carling Premiership, while Arsenal are suddenly starting to win friends as well:

as football matches. Such a claim can be overstated. "Dirty Arsenal," a Manchester United supporter told the press after their visit to Old Trafford produced their only defeat under Wenger and four bookings. "Just as well he didn't see them on a bad day," a colleague re-marked and, even with David Elleray, the referee, in benign mood when Arsenal played Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday, the yellow cards flour-

200

FXX:

AL TELETRADE

ished in the rain. But if they still tackle with ferocity, the sight of Adams : and Bould driving forward and Thornley playing wide from the back at every oppor- and Cruyff forming a new tunity has been a severe culture shock, but a welcome one. "Arsene Wenger has giv- . en them confidence," John Barnes, the Liverpool captain. said yesterday. Against Spurs box live or six times. and Martin Keown was run-

ning down the line making The biggest problem in this country is that teams don't take chances. But Adams and Keown are both being allowed to play. Wenger has given them the self-belief. They are a

team on a high." Liverpool, by contrast, have need the crowd to get behind us and give us confidence, including in Italy, against because we can't go out there them for three years," Fergu-being apprehensive," Barnes son said, "and they said us and give us confidence. being apprehensive," Barnes have a fitness test this morning. His return after ham-

- **±**Q42

+973·

4483

North's jump to Five Spades

over South's non-forcing Two

Spades looks over-ambitious

to me, though Six Spades is

not much worse than the

spade finesse. South might

well have bid it over Five

West (Howard Cohen) led a

high heart. Declarer ruffed in

dummy with the jack of spades and led the ten of

spades. Cohen was ready for

this - he ducked. Now it

appeared to the declarer that

East held the queen, so he

continued with a spade to the

nine. West won and cashed

two hearts to beat the contract.

Spades.

VAKQ5

By PETER BALL Arsenal defence more to think about and Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, some dif-

> with the side that began or the one which ended the game against Wimbledon on Saturday, which would mean leaving out Thomas and keeping both Collymore and Berger in the side. The latter seems the

most likely.

Manchester United's recent struggles have not deflected Alex Ferguson from his chosen path of using the Coca-Cola Cup to give his fringe players a game. Defensively he has little option against Leicester City at Filbert Street. with the Neville brothers injured, Irwin's return delayed until Saturday and Pallister's not even certain then, with his knee responding to treatment only slowly. He is also shaken

after a car crash on Monday. But Schmeichel, Cantona Beckham and Butt will all be rested, with Van der Gouve taking over in goal, Poborsky strike partnership with Scholes, the Dutchman getting a game in what many. including the manager, regard as likely to be, ultimately,

his best position. Spurs, Adams was in the Ferguson is clearly more concerned about the Premiership, and the European Cup Champions' League, in which United's fate will be decided in Vienna next week. He took heart from the praise of the Juventus players for United's performance in defeat, with the goalkeeper, Angelo Peruzzi, in particular, writing in

glowing terms about Fergu-SOITS TERMS. performance by any team. said. Steve McManaman that we are the biggest threat trained yesterday and will to them retaining the European Cup, which is good to

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Love all Rubber bridge

±53 · · ·

+KJ8

South, Leed: ace of hearts

trick.

have had to go down an extra

If declarer thought West capa-

ble of such trickery he might

have played the king on the second round of spades. If West shows out, declarer can

play on clubs, and make the

contract provided East has

two or three clubs. Difficult to

judge - if West can be relied

on to duck the spade whenever

he has the queen, that is the

best line. Note that taking the

queen of spades on the first

round is hopeless - with

dummy still having a trump to

control the hearts, whatever

West returns declarer is home.

b. A riverine double delta

c. Fine linen

c. With a dragon's head

Answers on page 54

DRACOCEPHALIC

a. Very lustful b. Mongolian

476

¥1097642

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT.

On today's hand dummy has a good side-suit, but a precarious

trump holding protecting another suit. It is a situation in which

the defence should hold up their trump honours if at all possible.

±J 10 8

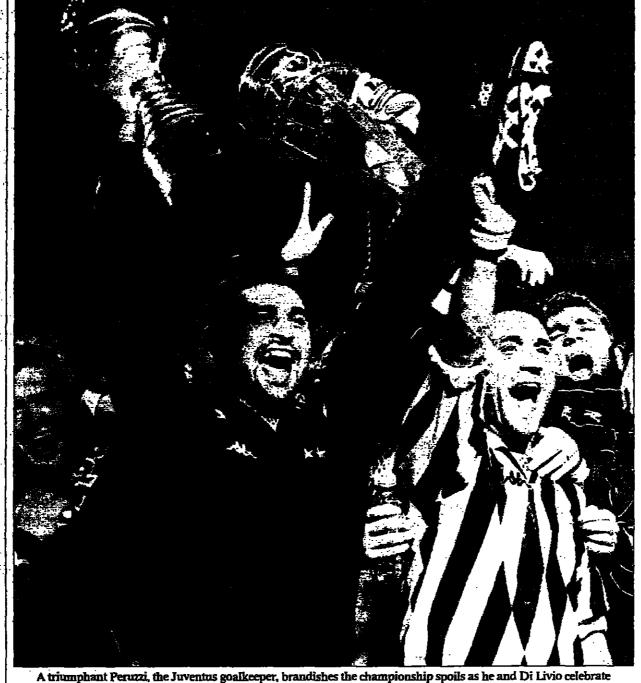
+AKQ1092

*AK976

EBLY

+065

454



Shearer chases European honour

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

IT IS 17 years since a Briton won the European Footballer of the Year award, 17 years in which two Germans, two Dutchmen, two Italians, two Frenchman, a Soviet (as was), a Bulgarian and a Liberian have accepted the highest accolade the continental game can bestow on an individual. Perhaps this year, Alan Shear-

er can put that right. terday in the shortlist of 50 players for the award and was immediately installed, on home shores at least, as one of the favourites to take it. His performances for Blackburn Rovers and then Newcastle United -- after the move to St

By RAYMOND KEENE

CHESS CORRESPONDENT

To coincide with the Mysteries

of Ancient China exhibition at

the British Museum, spon-

sored by The Times, I continue

today with information on

chess in China. News has just

been released of an archaeo-

logical find in Zhenjiang of a

Song dynasty glaze chess piece. Although the game was

popular in China as early as

the Tang dynasty, those Song

dynasty pieces are the earliest

Today's game shows Xie Jun from China, the former

women's world champion, de-

Sicilian Defence

Nf6

g6 Bg7

b5

0-0

Bxf6

Bg7 Qe7

Bb7

Řh8

ďŠ

Q16

examples found to date.

feating Boris Spassky.

White: Xie Jun

Black: Spassky

Prague 1995

Nc3

Be2 Nb3

20 ext5

21 Ras1

22 BC5

Women v Veterans.

Chinese chess

James' Park that made him the world's most expensive player, at £15 million - have been impressive, but his form during the European championship in the summer has lifted him among the frontrunners. His five goals in the

leading scorer. David Seaman, the Arsenal goalkeeper, is also shortlisted as is Robbie Fowler, the Liverpool striker. The FA Carling well represented, with Eric Cantona and Karel Poborsky carrying Manchester United's hopes - Peter Schmeichel, United's Denmark goalkeep-er, is left out — while Patrik Berger, of Liverpool, Gianluca

Vialli, of Chelsea, and Fabrizio

Ne7 Bc6

Be3+ Note3 Kg7 Rg8 Rbs5 Ki8

Diagram of final position

7 **2 2 2 1 1**

abcde fgh

Chinese chess, in its pure

form, differs from Western

chess in various respects.

There is an elephant piece, for

example, pawns capture for-wards and a river bisects the

middle of the board. The

Chinese game is known as

The UK Xiang Qi champ-

ionship starts on December 8

at the True Buddha School.

London NI and those interest-

ed in entering should tele-

Chinese chess

championship

Xîang Q

KEENE ön CHESS

Nc5

Od3

25 Notati

tournament made him the

Ravanelli, of Middlesbrough are all shortlisted. There is no place, however, for Paul Gascoigne, despite his successes with Rangers and impressive displays for England during

Shearer faces strong competition to follow in the footsteps of Sir Stanley Matthews, Denis Law, George Best, Bobby Charlton and Kevin Keegan, now his manager at New-

George Weah, the AC Milan striker who became the first non-European to win the award last year, and Ronaldo, the Brazilian prodigy whose form at Barcelona has been arguably the most impressive of any player in Europe.

NOMINATED 50: G Basistuta (Fiorentina), R Beijd (Ahstrop Madind), P Berger (Inverpool), O Bierhoff (Lidinese), L Bland (Barcelona), Z Boban (AC Milan), A Boksic (Juventus), E Cantona (Manchester United), E Chiesa (Parma), E Davids; AC Milan), R de Boer (Apax), A Det Pierro (Juventus), M Desailly (AC Milan), O Deschamps (Juventus), Y Djorfkaeff (Internazionale), L Figo (Sarcelona), R Fowler (Luventus), Y Heimer (Bayern Munch), T Ivanov (Rapid Vicerna), N Kanu (Internazionale), J Klinsmann (Bayern Munch), A Köpke (Masselles), B Lama (Pars Saint-German), B Laudrup (Pangers), J Litmanen (Ajax), P Maldim (AC Milan), P Miljatowo (Fieal Madind), A Möller (Borusse) Dorf-

United), Rai (Pans Saml-Germain), Raul (Real Machnd). F Ravenelli (Middlesbrough) Ronaldo (PSV Endhoven), Rui Costa (Forentara), M Sammer (Borussa Dortmund), D Savicavic (AC Mitar), M Scholl (Bayern Murach). D Seaman (Arsenal), Serg (Barceloral, A Shearer (Newcaste United), D Simone (Atlêtto, Matrid), D Suker (Real Machd), K Turkyllmaz (Grasshopper), G Vialli (Chelsea), G Weah (AC Mitar), J Zaneth (Internacionale) Z Zidane (Juventus), C Ziege (Bayern Murach).

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

CANADIAN FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL

Late results on Monday

GOLF

phone 0171-278 0956. FA Cup First-round replay □ Raymond Keene writes on *Cheltenham v Peterborough (7.45) Nationwide League First division

chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING HOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Alekhine - Reshevsky, Kemeri 1937. Alekhine seems to be on the ropes. He is a pawn down, Black is well centralised and has tied White up with pressure against the g2-pawn. How did the once and future world champion turn the tables?

Solution on page 54

AMERICAN FOOTBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE (NPL). Prisburgh 24

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION INBA; Orlando 88 Milwaukee 100; Washington 105 Minno-sola 98; Urah 108 New Jessey 92, Los Angeles Clippers 84 Chicago 88

GREY CUP: Toronto Argonsulis 43 Editron ton Eskimos 37.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Chris 2 South Kores 3 (in Guanganou). WORLD CLUB CLIP: Juventus 1 (Del Piero 81) River Plate (Arg) 6 (in Tolyto) AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Crystal Palace 1 Totterhum 0

Late results on Monday

FA CARLING PRISMERSHIP: Notingham
Forest 2 Blackburn Rovers 2
FA CUP: First round repley: Dagenhem
and Reclandge 1 Ashford Town 1 (ast Ashford word 4-3 on pens; away to Washord
ICSS LEAGULE: Premier division: Carshafton 4 Heybridge Swifts 1 First division:
Coydon 0 Sognor Regis 5
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First
division: Washord 0 Nonwich City 1
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division; Shaffield United 0 Laboester City 1:
Wolverhampton Wanderers 2 Sunderland 2.
Preston North End 0 Middlesbrough 0
FA YOUTH CUP: First round: Peterborough 2 Stevenage 1 Second round:
Manchester Uid 7 Wirevham 0
PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Ro Porto 4
Maritimo 1
SPANISH LEAGUE: Real Valladolid 0
Aldibico Machid 3.
SEGOVIA, Spein: World indoor five-a-side
championahip: Group B: Argentina 2
Citina 1: Holland 2 Russa 2 Group D:
Brazil 5 Belgumt 2, Fair 7 Cuba 1

EUROPEAN TOUR: Chalifying school (at Sen Roque and Sotogrande, Spani) Final scoree (48 and lee aniess stated leading 40 plus ties earn 1997 Tour cards! Qualifiers: 428: N Fasth (Swa 71, 77, 70, 89, 68, 73, 429: 8 Devis 65, 72, 72, 72, 71,

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated * denotes all-baker FOOTBALL

TODAY'S FIXTURES AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bournerrouth v Milwell (2.0); Brighton v OPR (2.0); Bristol R v Bristol C is Yate FC) Caudit v Portamouth (2.0); Oxford U v Chester, Southampton v Chelsee; Swansee v Swinson (2.0).

Tis, 73, 72, 71, 74, 76
LEADING WORLD RANKINGS: Merc 1, G
Norman (Aus) 10 41pts, 2, T Letrman (US)
9 66, 3, N Fatolo (GB) 8 85; 4, E Es (SA)
8 73, 5, F Couples (US) 855, 6, C
Mortgomene (GB) 8 31; 7, P Michelson
(US) 7 86, B, D Love B (US) 753; 9, C Pewin
(US) 7 46, 10, M Ocald (Japan) 7 45
Womer: 1, L Davies, (GB) 491,02pts; 2, A
Soranstam (Sive) 385,57; 3, K Webb (Aus)
327 32; 4, L Neumann (Sive) 299 8; 5, D
Pepper (TUS) 260,9 6, K Rebons (US)
225-24; 7, M McGann (US) 217 71; 8, M
Mallon (US) 204 53; 9, J Geodes (US)
183,89; 10, H Alliedsson (Swe) 163.

WELSH CUP: First mund: Caerphily Neath 1 (ae), Newport 9 Penanth I), LMM Aberystwyth 2 Oystermouth 7, UWC Swan sea 1 Llanghen 4; Whilchurch 2 Swansea 0

POWERBOATING

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Boodle & Dunthorne Cup: Third round: OFGS Blackburn v kings, Chester ESFA Full Film Trophy: Third-round roplay: Lea Valley v Harlow (Herstord Town, 6 30). FA Premier League under-16 trophy: Hampsher v Oxfordshre (Northwood Stackum) Warwickshire (Northwood Stackum) RUGBY UNION

Sulfok v Norfolk (al Ipswich, 7 30)
CLUB MATCH: Cambridge University v
M R Steels-Bodgor's (V (3 0).
HART GILMORE FOUR COUNTIES
CHAMPIONSHIP: Derbys v Worcs and
Hereford (at Long Eaton, 7 30) Postponed:
Smopshie v Barringham OTHER SPORT

Counties of Origin Series Midland Counties v Argentina XV (at Skitleids, Northampton, 7 45).... North Counties v South Africa A (al Gateshead, 7 30)...

BASKETBALL: European championship: Group B: Semi-finat: Estona v England (40). BOXING: WBO Inter-continental light-championship: Adnan

Scarborough PRESS & JOUANAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Eigm v Rothes

LEAGUE Egin v Rothes
ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND
COMBINATION: Premier division: Mor KA
v W Micland: Fire Service
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN
LEAGUE First division: Bilingiram v
Gustorough; Corsent v Essangtor.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE
FLOODLUT TROPHY: Second round:
Ididegrous v Marie Road; Pontith v Hollier
OB: Present v Cithoroe; Possendale v
Atherice Collicity.
JEMSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Sudbury Res v
Stownstele

TEPP-EX COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Essex v Cambridgeshira (et Bremwood, 7.30); Sulfok v Norfok (al Ipswich, 7.30)

Manchester City v West Bromwich (7 45) Coca-Cola Cup Founth round

Swansez v Swindon (2.0).
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division (7.0 unless stated). Olcham v Leats (at Stalvondge Celtral First division: Blackpool v Asnor Vila: Huddersfield v Port Vale Second division: Barrisley v Hud: Bradiard v Weeden. Burnley v Gransby (7.15). Third division: Bury v Corcaster, Chester v Scurthorpe; Lincoln v Darlington. Walsalt v Rochdale. Chesterteid v Scarborough

Survey Register CUP: First round; Notis Co v Bury; Bognor Regis v Villing Sp; Croydon v Gravesend and Northilest

Doctson v Anthony Joseph (Trandad) (& York Hall, Bethnol Green).

By Philip Howard GUMMA a. An aromatic oil

a diamond declarer would section on Saturday.

By now in a relaxed mood he .

Robert Sheehan writes on

fell from grace by continuing bridge Monday to Friday in

hearts - if he had switched to Sport and in the Weekend

a. Caoutchouc b. Old Cornedy politician: c. A-tumour

a. To defrock a nun b. A number above zero c. A Hummiangrage

a file and the state of AND SECOND Miles and Edit

· all^g graf

Pegasus takes flight as the complete footballer

SIMON BARNES

I the goal had been scored took a deflection - whether by one of the legion of Premiership exoticisms say. Vialli. or Juninho - we would all have been raving: gee whiz, that continental flair! Why can't we produce players

Or if the goal had been scored by one of our precious home-grown talents, Giggs or McManaman, we would have been loudly defiant: see, we British can produce the goods! Despite our austere tradition. real footballing talent can flourish on this island.

But the goal that settled the North London derby between Touenham and Hotspur last Sunday was scored by Tony Adams. The archetypal Arsenal donkey. Roaring out of defence on an immaculately timed run and cracking a quite stunning leftfooted volley into the net. It

that was decisive or not we will never know — but the point was the optimism, the man's confidence in his footballing skill and the immaculate striking of the ball.

Tony Adams: the complete footballer! What a concept. Adams has, for most of his long and really rather distinguished career, been famous for his limitations. He has made himself into a footballing archetype. He has always been the stopper centre-half, the utterly pragmatic defender. The brutal side of the beautiful game.

His lack of softness of touch was more or less endearing, at least to Arsenal supporters. When he played for England, he was considered, well, jolly tough and red-blooded and so on - but also, just a little a bit of an embarrassment.

donkeys, that is part of footballing tradition, but Adams has made himself the donkey. So what was he doing acting like, well, not quite like thoroughbred, but like a Dutch warmblood, anyway?

Adams rose to eminence under the management of the now-departed Arsenal manag-George Graham. Under his influence, and you suspected by his own inclinations. Adams perfected the role of donkey gloriosus. You stand tall and you shout a lot. You make massive defensive headers. You tackle like a steel trap. And if the ball comes close to those things on the end of your long legs, you hoof it upfield. Let the midfielders sort it out: that is what they are paid for.

For corners and free kicks,

you trot upfield and make

mayhem in the air. Heading

Midweek View

winning goals is the art that elevates the donkey to divine status. Adams's other great talent was running away from attackers with his hand in the

air like a small boy asking for permission to leave the classroom. Please sir, the opposition is offside again.

"Boring, boring Arsenal," the opposition carolled, but no supporter is ever bored by success and Adams performed his unvarying routine of studious pragmatism while the opposition supporters brayed their eeyores of derision at him. Unmoved.

We respect a specialist, even while deriding him. We suspect virtuosity. If a singer produces a painting, a sportsman makes a record or a writer turns to a new genre, the cry goes up at once: "Don't give up your day job! Oi, you! Leonardo! Stop messing about with those madonnas and get back to designing siege engines! Stick to what you're good att

Yet Adams has suddenly.

man of football. The new Arsenal manager, Arsene Wenger, has told him that the self-imposed shackles that have marked his entire career

are mere illusion. You are a footballer, sir. go out and football. Success is a terrible thing. It limits ambition. Achieve success and you no longer desire this man's gift and that man's scope. You can do something

right. That is precious and you do not dare to change it. You do not change a winning side, or a winning formula, just as you never close a show that is making money.

Adams has indeed changed this, then, some kind of

Indian summer? Or does he

think now: "What could I have been, had I been free? Could I have been a second Bobby

himself into the renaissance bauer? Could I have been more than a very good specialist? Did I have greamess in my grasp and chose instead a limited excellence? Did I sell out to my lesser gift?"

It is a question that assails anyone who has achieved any ort of limited emirience. whose success has been achieved by means of discipline and self-imposed limita-tion. But life is lived by looking forward, not back, and Adams has found new depths to his footballing nature. Do the sudden footballing freedoms he displayed so joyously on Sunday reflect the greater freedoms of his private life, the joys of an addict in the process of saving his own life? One hopes so, for it was a wonderful sight: Adams taking flight. Pegasus. The donkey soaring on his eagle's wings.

Confident Williams

BY PHIL YATES

MARK WILLIAMS, an unrivalled candidate for the game's most improved player. confirmed that status by completing a 9-4 victory over Nigel Bond, the No 5 seed, in the third round of the United Kingdom championship at

Williams, who unlocked the door to total self-belief by winning the Grand Prix title in Bournemouth last month, has been suffering from gas-tric flu in recent days but, despite feeling below par, he has refused to allow this to

if he carries on playing like

typically swashbuckling fash-ion, put Williams 8-4 ahead before he applied the finishing touches to a minth consecutive win in a world ranking tournament with a 124 clearance.

In the quarter-finals, Williams will play either Tony Drago, of Maila, or John Higgins, the world No 2 from Scotland. Drago looked the more likely winner as he entered the concluding session of their third-round encounter last night holding a surprise 6-2 advantage.

SNOOKER

marches on

Preston Guild Hall yesterday.

become a handicap.

Bond was 6-2 adrift overnight after finding it impossi-ble to contain Williams during the opening session on Mon-day. "Mark's playing as well as anyone in the game right now. He pots balls for fun and this, I can't see anyone beating him." Bond said.

Williams, who compiled breaks of 77, 90, and 91 in laying the groundwork for victory, lost two of the first three frames on the resumption. But Bond's hopes of producing a full-scale recovery were quickly entinguished.

Williams, 21, of Wales, is overawed by no one and oozes confidence. "At the moment, I don't think I'm going to miss. A couple of years ago. I couldn't seem to beat the top players, but something has just clicked," he said.

Paul Hunter, who made four century breaks during his 9-5 victory over James Wattana, the No 12 seed, in the second round, led 3-2 against Terry Murphy, who beat Rorinie O'Sullivan in the first

Rhinos advance

Rugby league: St Helens are now the only one of the 12 Super League clubs without a nickname after the unveiling of the newly titled Leeds Rhinos. The name was selected by a public ballot. The Headingley club also announced the signing of Richie Blackmore, the New Zealand centre, from Auckland Warriors, as a replacement on their overseas list for Kevin Iro, who has joined Hunter Mariners in the Australian Super League.

Challenger

replaced

for Dodson

contest

ADRIAN DODSON, from Is-

lington, the World Boxing Organisation No I light-mid-

dleweight, has a change of opponent for the defence of his

inter-continental title at York

Hall, Bethnal Green, tonight.

Instead of meeting Rodolfo

Aguilar, of Panama, he faces

Anthony Joseph, of Trinidad.

Joseph does not have the

experience of the Panamani-

an, having had only ten con-tests. Aguilar, 33, had had 42

bouts, of which he lost only

five. He had met the best in the world, including Julio Cesar

Chavez and Freddie Randall,

but a week ago it was discovered that he had retired.

Steelers triumph American football: Mike

Tomczak's 20-yard touchdown pass to Ernie Mills with little more than two minutes remaining lifted Pittsburgh Steelers to a 24-17 victory over Miami Dolphins on Monday. After the reserve quarterback and utility man, Kordell Stewart, had kept the drive alive with a vital run for a first down, Tomczak threw for Mills to take his first touchdown pass of the season.

Faldo tees off

Golf: Nick Faldo, the Masters **champion, will begin** his pursuit of Europe Ryder Cup team points next year in Australia by playing in the Johnnie Walker Classic in January, organisers of the event said in Sydney yesterday. The 1997 PGA European Tour begins with the tourna-Queensland from January

England expect

Baskethail: England will be hoping for a considerable improvement from Spencer Dunkley when, with European championship points at stake, they face Estonia in Tallium tonight. The meagre six-point contribution from the 6ft Ilin centre against Latvia last month was about a quarter of that expected by the national coach, Laszio Nemeth.

Bray recovers

Real tennis: Chris Bray, the Petworth professional, and the Australian amateur, Mike Happell, recovered from 4-1 down in the final set to defeat the favourites, Mike Gooding and the Harbour Club professional, Lachie Deuchar, in the final of the British Land British Open doubles champ-

CRICKET

Australia victory proves value of positive thinking

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN BRISBANE

BRISBANE (final day of five): Australia beat West Indies by

THE difference, as Mark Taylor confirmed by word, action and demeanour, is in the mind of the individual. Until recently. Australia's cricketers merely hoped they might beat West Indies and perennially they were disappointed. Now they know it can be done and, what is more, believe it will happen

again and again. For once, it is Australia who are defending supremacy between these teams and they could not have made a better start. Although it took them until the final hour yesterday. victory in the first Test at the Gabba was gained emphatically, confidently, even a shade arrogantly. In one respect, Australia won despite their captain's tactics rather

than because of them. Taylor conceded last night when he startlingly declined to enforce the follow-on was a wish "to give all the bowlers a day off". Put another way, he was so sure of the outcome that he acted like a jockey taking a pull before putting his horse's head in front on the

Courtney Walsh, the West Indies captain, said he was "surprised" to be spared batting again on Sunday after the collapse in which seven wickets were lost for 28, "It took a bit of the pressure off us," he said. Taylor need no longer concern himself with this. To all intents, his method worked and he has taken the high ground, materially and

psychologically.
"I think mentally it turned around for us in the Caribbean last year," he explained. "I don't underestimate the West Indies, but I know we can beat them now and there is a very positive mood in our team." This mood may be enhanced in the coming week.

for the second Test starts, in

Sydney on Friday, before the paint on this one is dry. The word is that the Sydney pitch be thinly grassed indeed, that it sports a conspicuous bare patch at one end and Australia have reacted by adding a second leg spinner, Peter McIntyre, to a squad in which Greg Blewett replaces Steve Waugh, who is injured.

The general expectation that this initial match would be won by leg spin proved misguided, or so the statistics would suggest. Shane Warne took only one of the nine remaining wickets to fall

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 479 (I A Healy 161 not out, R T Porting 88, S R Waugh 86; C A Walsh 4 for 112).

*C A Watsh not out Extras (b 8, \$b 3, nb 7)

yesterday and finished with the unflattering figures of two for 92. His influence on the day, however, was somewhat greater than that.

Warne bowled 31 overs yesterday for 58 runs, but as Ian Healy, his wicketkeeper, said later: "Shane gets us wickets at the other end because batsmen can't get him away and they have to look for their runs somewhere." Enter Michael

Bevan can bowl serviceable medium pace, but it was his wrist spin that was required

yesterday and he profited on the back of Warne's frustration. In 14 overs containing far more good balls than bad, Bevan took the wickets of Hooper, Bishop and, finally, the gallant but unavailing Campbell, who had batted almost seven hours for a century that deserved better support

Walsh faced, that West Indies set out yesterday morning with vic-tory in mind, but if they were ever going to dely history and reach a target of 420 they needed something substantial from Brian Lara, Instead, he added only 15 before driving ambitiously to give Mark Waugh a routine slip catch off

Hooper and Chanderpaul fell either side of lunch and, when Warne won a leg-before appeal against Adams as he stretched forward, the end seemed imminent. Browne

stoical company to Campbell. Warne appeared to have removed Campbell with a catch at silly point, unanimously acclaimed by the Australians, but umpire Randell thought otherwise and it was Bevan, an over later, who took the seventh wicket and opened

the gate to the tail. McGrath's pace and intelligent use of the yorker accounted for two more wickets, while Campbell fell leg-before to a quicker one from Bevan and shuffled off looking crestfallen and exhausted in equal measure. He had no cause to chastise himself, for without him this would have been no

Even as it was, West Indies failed to reach 300 against Australia for the tenth successive innings. The equilibrium of their dressing-room seems good but it is to be severely examined now, for they are up against an Australia team no longer shackled by the insecurity or inhibitions of



Australia have victory in sight as Campbell is out leg-before to Bevan for 113 yesterday

Forecast clouds tour optimism

From Simon Wilde in harare

THE England cricketers arrived here yesterday at the start of their first Test tour of Zimbabwe and found the weather, of one sort or another, the main topic of debate. Michael Atherton, the captain, is under it, having brought with him a bout of influenza, while the threatened arrival of the rainy season has put a dampener on the prospects of play during

the six-week visit. The players were permitted to rest yesterday after their overnight flight from London before a full day of practice at. the Alexandra Sports Club. Atherton will not join the session unless his condition

has improved considerably. England play their first match against a Districts XI,

on Saturday. What opportunity England have to play remains to be seen. It rained for most of last week here, while Bulawayo, which stages the first international fixture on December 15. saw three inches of rain fall yesterday. More is forecast. Zimbabwe's rainy season normally starts in November and can sometimes last for three

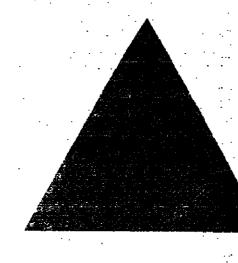
Jason Gallian hopes to prove his recovery from a cracked bone in his right index finger and play for England A in their one-day

match against Australian Capital Territory in Canherra

tomorrow.

Allan Donald is doubtful and Jonty Rhodes definitely out of the second Test of South Africa's tour of India, which starts in Calcutta today. ☐ Martin Speight, the Sussex batsman, yesterday became the latest player to concede that he wants to leave the troubled county. He wants to return to wicketkeeping. Alan Wells, deposed as captain last season, is considering an offer

☐ Northamptonshire yesterday signed David Follett the former Middlesex fast bowler. on a two-year contract.



Take away (in an almost sensual, beautifully bottled way.)

Take away (in a somewhat dull, mathematical way.)

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RACING

BHB under fire as tax cut is refused

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

disappointment at the Chancellor of the Exchequer's refusal to reduce betting duty in his Budget gave way to bitter recrimination last night over who was to blame.

The only crumb of comfort for racing was the anticinated announcement by the Heritage Department to allow racing to tap into lottery funds around £5 million — to improve racecourse facilities.

Peter Savill, a leading racehorse owner, said the British Horseracing Board's (BHB) decision to the racing's case for a cut in betting duty to that of bookmakers had backfired di-sastrously — and called into question the leadership of the

"I felt the strategy was wrong all along. Racing tied. itself too closely to the cause of the bookmaker and punter and that argument did not bare close scrutiny. We have gone down in flames alongside some questionable claimants," Savill said.

The BHB had called for a 1.75 per cent cut in betting duty - with I per cent going to the punter via a reduction in tax on bets. However, Savill believed strongly the proceeds of any duty cut should have

A PREDICTABLE sense of boosted racing's international-

ly low levels of prize-money.

He added: "Racing should argue its own corner and let the bookmakers argue theirs. it's all very well to say the bookmakers are interdependent partners but they have shown no wish to help racing. The BHB submission effectively supported 80 per cent of what the bookmakers were asking for, but their argument

didn't bare scrutiny. There has to be a rethink of strategy and a serious look at the leadership of the industry. I believe there has to be a much stronger alliance between the major professionals in the industry — the owners, trainers and breeders."

Although he did not name Lord Wakeham and Tristram Ricketts, chairman and chief executive of the BHB respectively. Savili clearly holds them largely to blame - but his own role in highlighting the financial difficulties facing racing came under fire at

"I think Mr Savill has got a lot to answer for by overegging the pudding. Here was someone who is a tax exile living in the Cayman Islands saying the end of the world was nigh," one MP said.

In addition, the bookmakers' presentation to Government insisted prize-money within racing was not a prob

lem - contrary to the BHR's view - which enabled the Treasury and Customs to exploit conflicting submissions - and do nothing. Kenneth Clarke's decision not to cut betting duty will

increase pressure on his for-mer Cabinet colleague, Lord Wakeham, whose reputation has been built on being a behind the scenes fixer. Privately, he has been furious at the campaign conducted by Savill and his constant sideswipes at the BHB leadership. Until now he has not given vent to his feelings in public. Lord Wakeham said last night: "The absence of a

reduction will have damaging repercussions for the racing and breeding industry. "Racing will now continue to struggle to attract invest-ment domestically and to comnete internationally, as prizemoney levels decline. Employment will be at risk, particularly in rural areas, as the future of a great British

positive response from the

Chancellor to racing's compel-

ling case for a further duty

Dublin Flyer awaits clearance for National

THEY came from afar to catch a gimpse of Dublin Flyer at Huntingdon yesterday, and they were not disappointed. The popular tenyear-old, greatly favoured by the race conditions, eventually dismissed Gales Cavalier by 18 lengths even if a monumental blunder at the final fence threatened to ruin the

Such an emphatic margin of victory seemed unlikely as the principal characters contested every stride of the

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ZEREDAR (2.45 Windsor) Next best: Mighty Moss (1.25 Chepstow)

Peterborough Chase over an extended 212 miles. For a brief moment, Richard Dunwoody, riding Gales Cavalier, had Dublin Flyer on the ropes. The latter is always vulnerable when racing right-handed but the younger pretender, whose stamina barely sustains him over this distance. paid the price for dictating a frantic pace.

"Richard went one hell of a gallop." Brendan Poweil, who rode the winner, said, "My horse was not his extravagant self even though he put in a few fine leaps. He was hanging very badly going into the last and he was also legweary. Overall, it was a pleasindustry comes under threat." | ing performance. I've always



Dublin Flyer survives a last-fence blunder to land the Peterborough Chase at Huntingdon yesterday

said he is a 21lb better horse going left-handed." As is his wont, Tim Forster, who trains the horse, insisted he hated every second of it.

In truth, so starved of opportunities are horses of Dublin Flyer's calibre that connections had little option but to contest this race. Perhaps that is just as well; the turnout was deeply disappointing for the £30,000 on offer and Dublin Flyer's absence would have heralded an early start to the pantomime season. At least the gelding did not suffer the fate of his stablemate, Martha's Son. who has not been out since he injured a leg in defeat here 12

The sight of Dublin Flyer gracing the winner's enclosure also erased the image of his ignominious, slithering departure from the Murphy's Gold Cup when leading at Cheltenham li days ago. Prestbury Park had previously been kind to Dublin Flyer but his last two visits have vielded that slip-up and an inexplicably poor performance in the Gold Cup. While the latter race remains Dublin Flyer's principal target, his owner-breeder, John Sumner. was happy to entertain thoughts of a Grand National

challenge for the first time. "I have been against it up to now but the two races are three weeks apart this season. Sumner noted. The

240 (3m 2) holler 1. Mr Pluttis (5 McNeil), 4-1 g-lav); 2. Quiet Missiess (13-2), 3. Kathaliou (8-1) Our Rambow 4-1 g-lav (pu) 14 ran NR Gunmaker 194, 111 J Tuck, Tote 55-60; 52-10, 52-20, 52-60 DF 529 00 Tine 587 00 CSF, 532 79 Tincast, 5138 85

1.15 (2m 4/ 110yd ch) 1. Mister Drum (W Marston, 11-4), 2. Wee Windy (4-5 fay); 3 Singsty, (8-1) 14 ran, 3-7, 1 hd M Wilkurson, Tote £ 360; £140, £130, £1 50, DF £2.40 Tno £3 60, CSF £5.41

1.50 (3m ch) 1, Solo Gent (5 McNeil, 7-2); 2, Sugar Hill (3-1), 3, Distinctive (5-2 lav) 7 ran 9l, 1%l A Jones Tote €3.80, £2.20, £1.80 DF; £5.10, CSF: £14.61

2.25 (2m 51 110yd hdle) 1. Gaye Fame (5 McNell. 9-4; Thunderer's napl. 2 Marlouson (6-1), 3. Lady High Sheriff 9-1) Seymourswifi 6-4 Lav (f) 10 Ian 1 Nr. 131 (8 Bailey Tote: 53-50; 51-70, 51-60, 52-50 DF £12 40 Tho: £19 80 CSF £17-11

3.00 (2m 41 110yd ch) 1, Dutbin Flyer (8 Powell 4-9 lav); 2, Gales Cavaker (7-2), 3, Kadi (5-1) 6 ran, 18l, 9l T Forster Tote £1.30, £1 10, £2.20 DF £1.60 CSF; £2.37

3.35 (2m 110yd hole) 1, Teinein (A P McCay 8-13 lav); 2, Manus (100-30) 3, Chel Cornecten (15-2), 7 ran 354, 171 T Forster 10de 51-60, 51-40, 51-40, DF-63-40, CSF-63-66

Placepot: £12.00. Quadpot: £4.90.

1.35 (2m 41 110 of ch 1 1 Pongo Waring (J Osborne, 11-4 lavi, 2, Firmsy Truth (8-1), 3. Glandlio Star (3-1) 5 nan 11, 81 Mass H Knight Tota (53.20; 12.10, 12.60 DF 19.20 CSF; 120.62

2.10 (3m 11 ch) 1, Yorkshire Gale (N Witismson, 4-11, 2, Betry's Boy (11-4), 3. Copper Mine (8-1) Grey Smoke 11-10 fev 4 ran, 21, 151, J Gifford Tote 23 70 OF 55,10 CSF 212.91

2.45 (2m 110yd holer 1, Mandys Mantino (P. Hide, 11-8 fav.), 2, Serenty, Prayer (11-4), 3, Chicodan (7-4), 3 ran (1), 7, J. Gifford, Total E2 10, DF, £1 90, CSF, £4 41

Cheltenham Going, good to firm, good in places 1.00 (cm 5l hdie) 1, Blaze Away (J Osborne, 13-8), 2, Courbani (Evens Iav), 3, Beliror (4-1), 4 ran, 31, 13i, 1 Balding Tote £2,40, DF, £2,30, CSF £3,55.

Huntingdon

Going: good to solt

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

horse is not getting any younger and the National is not the Intervitused to be." The heart still skips a beat

at the memory of Dublin Hughes Memorial Chase over Aintree's famous birch 20 months ago. His participation in the National would be something to treasure. Until then, we must hope the giant bay retains the zest which swept him to victory yester-

(ur) 2 rain Miss V Williams Tote £1 70

3 55 (3m 2) hdie) 1. Spaceage Gold (G Upton 5-4 lav), 2 Tans Bridge (11-8), 3 Rare Spread (11-3), 4 ran, 11, 27, J Old Tote: \$2.20 DF \$1.60 CSF \$3.21

12.20 (5); 1, Kilcullen Lad (0 R McCabe, 9-2 lav. 2, Just Loui (5-1); 3, Sercise's Nophew (8-1) 10 ran 3l, 3ai P Moorey Tole £4.90 £1.10, £2.20, £2.40 DF £7.30 Tnor £29.30 CSF £23.87 Tricasa: £145.64

12.50 (Im 2); 1. Mersey Beet (G Ouffield, 9-1); 2. Castles Burning (10-1); 3. Noble Hero (9-2) Greenwich Fore 5-2 law 10 ten 11, 19-1 G L Moore Tole £10-70, £2-20, £1-70, £2-20 DF £33-50. Tino £23-10 CSF £34-98

Lor au. Lor Ette 11 Incest: \$456.52 2.00 (1m 2): 1, Persian Conquest (A McGone, 9-4); 2 Bagshot (7-4 tax); 3, Our Shadee (20-1): 13 ran ki, 1 vi R Ingram Tote \$3.00; £140; £140; £3.90 DF £3.60 Inc £17.40 CSF: £6.57

2.35 (6): 1. Selssor Ridge (D Harrison, 10-1) 2. kings: Harmony (15-2) 3, Duke Valentino (10-1), Double Blue 6-1 lav. 14 ran 13:1 31 J Bindger Tote 521 20; \$4.00 53:00, 56:60 DF: \$73.70 Tito 5296.10 CSF \$76.76 Tricast \$708.35

Car Cro ro Inicasi Cros & 3.10 (Imi 1, Montone (D Harrson 6-1) 2, Scoty Term (10-1), 3, Harlequin Wall (8-1), Polly Peculiar 4-1 fav. 12 ran. Shind, not J Jenkins Tote: \$7.40, £2.50, £1.60, £3.30 DF £23.00 Tino £75.90 CSF £57.68 Tricast £446.85

185, 1446 65
3,45 (Im) 1, Mazurek /D Holland, 6-11, 2, kingchip Boy (19-11, 3, Zahran (12-1) Grealest, Present Situation 7-2 g-lay 12 ran 241, 41 P Chappie-Hyam Tote £7.00 270, 02-60, 02-90 DF 120 10 Tino 1219 40 CSF 671-04 Tincast 2659 16

Placepol: £801.70. Quadpol: £24.70.

Lingfield Park

Going: slandard

1.25 lt's A Gem 1.55 Furielto

2.55 Lansdowne 3.25 Or Royal

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:

Going on which horse has won (F -- firm, good to time, basic. 6 — good. 5 — solt, good to solt, bassy). Owner to brackets. Tokiner. Age and weight. Railer plus any allowance. The Tarres Private Handlespper's railing.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (CHASE COURSE); SOFT (HURDLES)



1995: PHARAMEAN 5-11-12 W Marston (8-2) D Michelson 15 mm

FORM FOCUS

DARAYDAN best Darre Point 161 in 9-remote soulces hardine at Letrester Chr., good to soil). It'S A GEM best Devor Person 161 in 16-remote soulces hardine at Letrester Chr., good to soil) will be fine the class of the 11 10/yd, good to soil) will be fine the class of the 11 10/yd, good to soil) will be fine the class of the 12th MRCHTY MOSS best Dentime 168 111 in 14-rumner novace hardin at Worzester (2m 4t, good) with processer (2m 5t, good to soil). BLAZIMG MRACLE shout 17/41 4th of 16 to injectable to novice hundle at Nortester (2m 5t, good to soil). BLAZIMG MRACLE shout 17/41 4th of 16 to injectable to novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to coil). BLAZIMG MRACLE shout 17/41 4th of 16 to injectable to novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil). BLAZIMG MRACLE shout 17/41 4th of 16 to injectable to novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil), and novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil). It is novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil) with novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil), and novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil) with novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil), and novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil), and novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil), and novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil), and novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil), and novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil), and novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil), and novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil), and novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil), and novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil), and novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil), and novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil), and novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil), and novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil), and novice hundle at Plumpton (2m 4t, good to soil), and novice hundle at Plu

COURSE SPECIALISTS 26.9 26.9 26.2 23.5 20.0 **JOCKEYS** R Duminody R Duminody A P McCoy D (TSulfixan G E Tormey

.55 SLIGO SELLING HURDLE (£1,940: 2m 4f 110yd) (14 nunners)

940: 201 41 TUDO) (14 TUDO)S (14 TUDO)S (18 BETTING: 3-1 Furletto, 5-1 Fornitvehoubundrad, 6-1 Strike-A-Pose, 7-1 Citiza Med. 8-1 others. 1995: CASSIO'S BOY 4-10-9 D Walsh (20-1) R Editry 13 ren

FORM FOCUS RURETTO 41 2nd of 14 to Bello Rose in selling tendings hardin at Weinierby (2m 41 10)rd, good).

STRECE-A-POSE 81 2nd of 12 to Esprit de Fernme in Language to Early DRAGONIMIST 81 3rd of 9 to STRECE-A-POSE 81 2nd of 12 to Esprit de Fernme in Language to Early DRAGONIMIST 81 3rd of 9 to Poppy in Language to Early DRAGONIMIST 81 3rd of 9 to Honey Mount in novice bondle at Tauronn (3m POROFINETWORKENDAMORED) 281 3rd of 6 to Poppy is 1 Selection: FURETTO

2.25 DONEGAL HANDICAP CHASE (£3,485: 2m 3f 110yd) (4 rumes)

FORM FOCUS

BELLS LIFE 41 2nd of 5 to Grey Smotos in novices at Scatteria (3ra, good to ferm) BEAL JAMEN LANCASTER beat Newtonds-General 2941 JAMEN LANCASTER beat Newtonds-General 2941 in G-marks transfer prices over course and dishards at Principles (2m 5) soll).

ARMALA skurl-head 2nd of 7 to Aedean in Isandi-

2.55 INDEPENDENT INSURANCE HANDICAP HURDLE (23,716: 3m) (15 TURNETS)

4ft 333-212 LINESDOWNE 18 (D.S.S.) (R Dermand) P Nicholik B-12-0 ... O Burnous (7) 91

4ft 333-212 LINESDOWNE 18 (D.S.S.) (R Dermand) P Nicholik B-12-0 ... O Burnous (7) 91

4ft 375-911- LITTLE GUMMER 208 (D.S.) (A Balley) R Price 6-11-7 ... R Bullerrey 89

4ft 311-13- VIS MAN 33 (D.B.F.S.) (A Windon) S Earle 12-11-2 ... R Busenced 96

4ft 141-13- VIS MAN 33 (D.B.F.S.) (A Windon) Mals H Knight 7-11-1 ... R Busenced 96

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4ft 28-9-3-9 C.B.C. (D.B.S.) (Mar N. Sampson) R Routle 15-10-1 ... M GRIBTIN (7) 93

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4ft 195-10-3 OATS ROSE 8 (S) (Mar S.) Malegoth Routle 16-10-1 ... S Molitic 17) 94

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4ft 1-2-2-1 ACROWN LINE 9 (B.B.S.) Malegoth Bound 16-10-1 ... S Molitic 1

BETTING: 3-1 Giangard Girl, 6-1 Lansdowne, 7-1 Yes Man, 8-1 Little Gunner. 10-1 Kanzr, Mass Decian, St Ville. 14-1 others

LITTLE GUBINER best The Meancars Gone 1% of norsice hardle at Bangor (3m, soid). FORTUNES COURSE 43 for to Exponence in handless hardle at forestate (24 in, good). MSS DISCON head and to forestate (24 in, good). MSS DISCON head and to handless hardle at Footbeal (2m 51, good to be for handless hardle at Footbeal (2m 51, good to be for handless hardle at Meanth Abbot (24 in, heavy) to Selection: YES MAN

3.25 TIPPERARY NOVICES CHASE (£3,071: 2m 110yd) (10 runners)

7. 201 Tribyty (10 fullers)

52101 OR ROYAL 180 (S) (D Lohcor) M Pize 5-11.5

5219704 BAJBONIT 349 (B,S) (D Dares) C Dene: 5-15-12

T J Morphy

547905 DRESS DANCE 14 (S) (Mrs J Powel) H Astende 5-19-12 Sophie Matchell (S)

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1995: SEEK THE FAITH 6-11-0 B Powell (33-1, M Stappard 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

OR ROYAL beer Do Ne Sast Jamas 1) in 10-namer classe at Andreii (2m. 11 110yd. coli). BANGKORTT 251 9th of 18 to Monteatmen a novoce hurdle at 171 4th of 11 to Manteamer Gleo to selling handleap hurdle at 10-necester (2m., solt). SUPER COIN 22 2nd to Perfest Overhead in 13-namer novoce chaze at Newton Abbot (2m. 51 handleap chaze at Weston Abbot (2m. 51 handleap chaze at Newton (2m. 51 handleap chaz

3.55 weatherbys stars of tomorrow open national hunt flat RACE (£1.744 2m 110yd) (16 nunners)

SETTING: C-1 Lady Rebecca, 5-2 St Medico Lecture, 5-1 Shore Party, 8-1 Wildows Routelle, 10-1 Misser Chips, 12-1 Repeat Chips, 16-1 others 1995: DICTUM 4-11-3 ldrs M Rimell (7-3) N Twiston-Cares 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

LADY RESECCA completed double, best Duini
Eagle 6 in 17-numer Rational Hunt Flat issee at
Wiscastro (Cm. good) with MRSSED THE MATCH
(3b better of) 42 1351
RRANGE MUCK 321 10th of 14 to Literate
Smoothe on Rational Hunt Flat lace at Newton
Abbot (2m 11, beavy) with MINICAY tailed off 14th
STRONG TEL withsily pushed up 1sci of 12 to The

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Hexham

Trainers: L. Lungo. 20 wenners from 72 runners, 27.8%, G. Richards, 18 from 69, 26 1%, B. Blacon. 5 from 22.27%, Mar Revetsy, 9 from 44, 20.5%, J. Johnson, 13 from 71, 18.3%, Jockeys: N. Bertiley, 10 wenners from 40 rudes, 25.0%, A. Dobbon, 23 from 94, 24.5%; P. Neven, 18 from 75, 24.0%, T. Reed. 19 from 93, 20.4%.

2.35 FEDERATION BREWERY HANDICAP

HURDLE (£2.157: 2m) (10)

Windsor Trainers: C Brooks, 6 winners from 16 runners, 37.5%, D Elsworth, 5 from 15, 33.3%; D Gardolfo, 4 from 16, 75.0%, A Turnell, 6 from 27, 22.2%; P Hedger, 5 from 23, 21.7%, Jockeys: D Galagher, 5 winners, storn 27 ndes, 18.5%, M A Frizgerald, 6 from 38, 15.8%, M Richards, 10 from 68, 14.7%, P Hodey, 4 from 29, 15.8%.

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CHANGING TIMES

12.45 Dantes Cavelier. 1.15 MILLERSPORD (nap). 1.45 Call Me River. 2.15 Ready Money Creek. 2.45 Zeredar. 3.15 Inculcate. 3.45 Strokesaver. 12.45 RIVER THAMES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: \$2,602: 2m 4f) (9 runners) 5-4 Lady Peta, 2-1 Deptes Cavallet 8-1 River Bay, 10-1 All Over Red Acres, Gressenou, 12-1 Dark Challenger, 16-1 others. 1,15 river thames national hunt novices HURDLE (Div II: £2,581: 2m 4f) (9) RULE: (DIV II: ±2,581: 271 41) (9)

0-21 DREAM LEADER 11 (20,51 M Roberts 6-11-4 ... J Raimon 90

40-1 MELERSTORD 21 (6) N Gaseles 5-11-4 ... C Lincothing 68

P ALTS DELIGHT 22 M McMillan 5-10-12 ... M A Fitzgrand 1

20-0 BARRES 178 33 J Wolfe 4-10-12 ... D Galegier ... D Galegier ... D Galegier ... 20

1/21 BEST OF REGIOS 231 (8) Miss # Keight 6-10-12 ... S Fatton 98

3-3 NORY CONSTER 21 (6F) 8 De Hand 5-10-12 ... J Chidonne ... P Hade 90

0-F4 OPERETTO 12 Mrs 5 Nock 6-10-12 ... D Bridgewiter 84

SPARKLING SPRINK K Belley 5-10-12 ... C O'Dwyer ... SPARKLING SPRINK K Belley 5-10-12 ... C O'Dwyer ... SPARKLING SPRINK K Belley 5-10-12 ... C O'Dwyer ... SPARKLING SPRINK K Belley 5-10-12 ... C O'Dwyer ... SPARKLING SPRINK K Belley 5-10-12 ... C O'Dwyer ... SPARKLING SPRINK K Belley 5-10-12 ... C O'Dwyer ... SPARKLING SPRINK K Belley 5-10-12 ... C O'Dwyer ... SPARKLING SPRINK K BELLEY 5-10-12 ... C O'Dwyer ... SPARKLING SPRINK K BELLEY 5-10-12 ... C O'Dwyer ... SPARKLING SPRINK K BELLEY 5-10-12 ... C O'Dwyer ... SPARKLING SPRINK K BELLEY 5-10-12 ... C O'Dwyer ... SPARKLING SPARKLING SPRINK K BELLEY 5-10-12 ... C O'Dwyer ... SPARKLING 8-4 Millerstand, 7-2 None Stimed, 4-1 Sest Of Freeds, 9-2 Design Leader, 8-1 Spanking Spring, Opensio, 16-7 trany Coaster 20-1 others

THUNDERER

1,45 WINDSOR NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

5-1 Dammada C-1 La Miguelay, The Smed, 8-7 Stiesterly Galle, 10-1 Call Mile River. Oxford Oxell, 12-1 Sangare, 14-1 others. BLANCERED FIRST TRAE: Windson, 12.45 The Milmaster, 1.45 to Grand, 2.45 Zeeclar

2.15 EBF SUNRINGHELL NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £3,078: 2m) (11) - WINDSON

7-4 Dankshan, 8-4 Ready Money Creek, 4-1 Neat Fest, 10-1 Freno, 12-1 Tree Creeper, 16-1 Newtr Jenine, 28-1 others. 2.45 DATCHET HANDICAP CHASE (£3,105: 2m) (12) 7 P5-4 LASATA 38 (D.G.S.) R Curson 11-11-11 ______ D Monts = 2 29 RED BEAM 580 (CD.B.S.) K Vincent 8-11-4 ____ A Diction = 3 F96 EARLY DRINKER 205 (D.G.S.) O Shemond 8-11-4

3 F36: EARLY DRINKER 205 (D.Q.S.) O Sherwood 8-11-4 McCarby (2)
4 4-1P ZEREDAR 25 (B.D.BF.6) K Baley 6-11-4 ______ C O'Deyer 96
5 P-_____ THE STYNG FOOTMAN 371 (D.S.) B Dates 10-11-1 J Osbone ______ C O'Deyer 96
6 0-00 SSTER ROSZA 1/4 (D.S.) No S Lamprate 8-11-0 _____ R Forant ____ F F1F- MSS MARREOLD 18 (B.E.F.6.S) R Hodges 7-11-0 _____ P friding _____ P F25 MSS MARREOLD 18 (B.E.F.6.S) R Hodges 7-11-0 _____ P friding _____ D Gathgher 92
8 23/2 SAFELY 3/4 (B.D.BF.F.6.) J Wate 9-10-6 ______ D Gathgher 92
9 24- STRR OF F1M 7 256 (D.S.) C Mortack 9-10-4 ______ L fravey ____ P F25 MARRE 245 (D.S.) May A Wandow 13-10-0 ___ 6 Hodges 95
10 312F CROWLATION 15 (V.D.F.6.S) D McCain 10-10-0 ___ 0 Weish (2) 91 3-1 Fiction, 4-1 Early Director, 5-1 Mass, Managold, 6-1 Zenector, 8-1 Lasala, Safely, 12-1 Red Besso, 14-1 others.

3,15 WHITE HART CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,320: 2m) (9)

1 3114 YURRULE 9 (D.BE.F.G.S) M Pice 4-12-0 ... E Humband 98 1115 TEXCENTYS GT7 225 (D.S) M Pice 4-12-0 ... E Humband 98 1115 TEXCENTYS GT7 225 (D.S) GL Moore 6-11-11 M Attacker (5) 95 3 00-6 MCULCATE 14 (R.D.S) C Weenion 5-11-4 ... G Hogen 95 4 15-14 PMR GF JACKS 11 (D.F.S) GL Moore 6-10-5 ... D Fraft 96 5 505- AURIUST TWEETIM 208 (9) D Grien 6-10-0 ... D Weish 98 6 00-2 DONTINESS CORONNER 11 (F.6) R Hockes 8-10-0 T Describe 92 7 42-26 KALZAR 10 (D.G.) A Caroli 11-10-0 ... P Henfoy 99 6-10-0 SECTION OF TAXABLE 10 (D.G.) A Caroli 11-10-0 ... D J Pract 95 10-0 ... J Pract 95 10-0 6-4 Yuhalite, 7-2 Ticherly's 670, 4-1 Pair Of Jocks, 6-1 Incalcale, Doestressturfanar, 8-1 August Twellith, 16-1 offers.

3.45 CRANBOURNE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,952: 2m 6f 110yd) (12)

(\$2,952. 2m 61 110yd) (12)

1 482- DONT TELL THE WRE 184 (6,5) C Eparton 10-12-0

Mr R Teamtion (5) —

5 502. RAGIB 181 (D.F.G) P Recharts 5-11-11 — 5 Fox 91

3 51P* COPPER 902 914 (50.5) R Buckler 7-11-0 — 8 Proceed —

10* SPRINNER 859 (5) N Goustin 6-11-7 — C Limentifyn —

1-12* KALASADI 10 (8).53 V Score 5-11-5 — C Limentifyn —

1-12* KALASADI 10 (8).53 V Score 5-11-6 — Bellenjin 98

6 11-0 LESSONES LASS 66 (FF.P) Miss H Knight 4-11-4 — J Cabbrier 91

7 F4-1 CLARESWAR 10 (6) N Tempister 4-11-1 — D Gellenjin 90

9 331— STRONESWAR 10 (6) N Tempister 10-10 — 6 Brackly 98

10 OF ANDER 8 (D.F.G. N A Brance 6-10-7 — 7 Salter (6) 191

12* LOPE NADDRA 8 (D.F.G. N A Brance 6-10-4 — P Hide 97

12* CLARESWAR 10-16 (1) N TEMPISTER (1) P HIDE 97

14* CLARESWAR PRESIDENT 36 (FT.C. MARCH 5-10-0 — 6 Hispan (5) 61 3-1 Claresuce. 5-1 Rayb. Lessons Less, 6-1 Strolesson. 8-1 Copper Boy. Don't Tell The Wile. 16-1 Spinnator, 12-1 offices.

HEXTAM 1.05 Chopwell Curtains. 1.35 Clever Boy. 2.05 Golden Hello. 2.35 Joyrider. 3.05 Juke Box Billy. 3.35 Lord Of The Loch. GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) 1.05 FEDERATION BREWERY LCL PILS HOVICES CHASE (£3,480: 3m 1f) (12 runners) 1 PO-0 AYLESBURY LAD 19 D Lamb 7-10-12 2 32-2 CHOPWELL CURTARGS 26 (BF.F.G.S) T Easterby 6-10-12 3 5U DAWN LAD 15 Ms. A Sanstant 7-10-12 J. Sapple 4 029- MAMICA 219 M Cods 6-10-12 ... N Smith 5 051- MGMcSAAN 272 (6) M Hammond 7-10-12 ... R Garnity 6 190 MIDNYMAX 92 Unit 5 Smith 7-10-12 ... R Garnity 7 F-06 NAMAY 12 (5) M Bannes 6-10-12 ... R Garnity 7 F-06 NAMAY 12 (5) M Bannes 6-10-12 ... S Taylor (5) 8 -524 ROYAL SURFINESE 19 (5) W Reed 9-10-12 ... K Johnson 10 34-4 TECH 000LD 25 P Cheestoncoph 8-10-12 ... K Johnson 10 34-4 TECH 000LD 25 (5) M Soversby 6-10-7 ... D Paril 17 P DEAR LENN 15 (5) M Soversby 6-10-7 ... D Storrey 12 151- SENIGRA D'OR 200P (6) B Maxinggraph 6-10-7 ... B Storrey 12 151- SENIGRA D'OR 200P (6) B Maxinggraph 6-10-7 ... B Storrey 14 Chemical Control of Code Policy 14 Chemical Code Policy 14 Chemical Code Policy 14 Chemical Code Policy 14 Chemical Code Policy 15 Chemical Chemical Chemical Chemical Chemical Chemical Chemical Chemic 4-6 Chopuell Contens, 5-1 Monisson, 10-1 Serios D'Or Tico Surprise, 12-1 Dawn Lad, 14-1 Mannta, Nijury, 16-1 others. 1.35 FEDERATION BREWERY SPECIAL ALE MOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,595: 2m 4i 110yd) (8)

2-1 Litebury, 3-1 Lagon, 5-1 The Neet Waltz, Clever Boy, 6-1 Kings Mostral, 8-1 Enveronmental Law, 33-1 others

2.05 KEDGHANS NOVICES CHASE (£3,207; 2m 110yd) (15)

2.5-1F GOLDEN HEALD 18 (D.F.G.S) | Eactorby 5-11-5 | P. Noven
2 -259 ARRISTODENRIS 26 Mrs. L. Marshell 7-10-12 | D. Berdley
3 PAFE SONRY JOSENY 4 D. Mottet 6-10-12 | D. Mottet
4 DRIV GROCKALAMN 38 V. TROMESON 8-10-12 | Mr M. Thompson
5 064- DARK BUDY 236 B. Macangusto 7-10-12 | Mr M. Thompson
6 0-76 ELHOTTS WISH 14 J. Johnson 5-10-12 | N. Willeamson
7 P-46 ETHOCAL MOTE 12 Mrs. S. Smith 5-10-12 | R. Guest
8 PP-5 FAR ALLY 20 M. Sonensby 6-10-12 | D. Parker
9 0-04 FERMICA'S BRUTHER 97 (F) Mrs. S. Smith 6-10-12 | Mr P. Marray

0 0-04 FENWICK'S BROTHER 97 (F) Mrs S Smoth 6-10-12 Mr P Mentaly
10 0-10 FME TUNE 12 Mrs S Beaftonne 6-10-12 Mr P Mentaly
11 3-P2 HISBLAND WAY 32 (E) M Todinumer 8-10-12 Mr Davjet
12 3-64 MISTER CASUAL 173 W Road 7-10-12 Mr Davjet
13 09-0 UK HYSIENE 12 (F) M Hannound 6-10-12 R Garrity
14 5460 WEE WIZARD 31 (F.S.S.) Mr Barnes 7-10-12 S Taylor (S)
15 3140 BOLANEY BIRL 12 (F) F Muttagh 7-10-7 B Harsting
13 Epiden Hefin 4-1 Heinbard Wei. 7-1 IB Manual 9.1 Reviews End 40.4 2-1 Golden Hedo, 4-1 Highland Way, 7-1 Uk Hygette, 8-1 Bolaney Girl 10-1 Mister Casusi, 12-1 Was Mizard, 14-1 Austrobunus, 16-1 others

3.05 FEDERATION BREWERY BUCHANAN HANDICAP CHASE (£2,963: 2m 4f 110yd) (14) HANDICAP CHASE (EZ.953: 2m 41 *10yo) (14)

1 -320 SUPPUSIN 20 (CD.F.U.S) Mr. S Smith 8-11-11 ... R Guest
2 -3-6 SDC OF HILL 18 (F.S.) B Macianger 11-11-10 ... G Lee (3)
3 5-43 SFAND SCENERY 47 (D.F.G.) Judicion 8-17-3 M Millionson
4 2560 MOVAC 25 (CD.B.S.) Mr. S. Linssell *7-11-9 ... A Thomson
5 41-P HURRICAME ANDREW 20 (C.F.G.) Judicion 8-17-7 ... K. Johnson
7 40-3 WAYLIMAL 7 (D.B.S.) J. O'Thou 9-11-6 ... M Davier
8 5-0P GAA WAYLIS IS (E.F.S.) Thou 10-11-5 ... V Read
9 -331 CADER DRIS IS (E.F.S.) Date 10-11-5 ... V Read
10 29-5 JUDIC BUS MILL 20 (F.G.) Lab Brown 8-11-5 ... A Orbbin
11 2341 BUYERS DREAM 18 (V.CD.F.) 8 Elizon 6-11-0 ... G Cahill (3)
12 -P2U WALLIS PARNAE 19 (CD.F.) 6 December 10-10-9 M Familia
13 -153 POTEWARD ELEN 19 (B.D.F.) P Chestorouph 9-10-9 ... A S Smith
14 SPU SE VOU ALWAYS 12 (F) M Brance 6-10-0 ... 5 Taylor (5)
1 Carler (0.55 -1 Size (10) M. 6-1 Egraph 2 Scenery -1 Wanaphul, 9-1 others l-1 Cader Mass, 5-1 Side Of Hill, 6-1 Grand Scenery 7-1 Wayspituli, 8-1 others. 3.35 NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,343: 2m) (14) | Description |

5-2 Land Oil The Loch, 7-2 For Cathol, 7-1 Run For The MRII, 8-1 others RACELINE CHEPSTOW 101 WINDSOR 102 HEXHAM IRISH 120 | 220 FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

Oliver Holt sees a sentimental journey end in the hills above Lisbon

Nannini savours a lap of honour

minutes when Alessandro Nannini despaired of ever driving a racing car again. His severed right arm lay in the wreckage of his helicopter and blood was pumping from the stump. In those few moments, he said here in Estoril yesterday, he thought he would have to stop racing and start going to the beach more. Then he fainted.

Six years have elapsed since that day when the Benetton driver, who was regarded as a possible future Formula One world champion, crashed the helicopter as he was trying to land in the grounds of his father's house in Siena. He has had more than 20 operations to try to restore movement and feeling to the arm. which was sewn back on using microsurgery.

Most of them were carried out under strict provisos from Nannini. When These two doctors wanted to take bone from days are his right foot to graft on to his something hand, he told them to take it I wanted from the left foot instead because so badly' he did not use that

one for braking and accelerating. When they wanted to bring his thumb and forefinger closer together to allow him to hold a knife or fork, he forbade them because it would have prevented him from guiding a car properly. Instead, the fingers of his right hand are fixed in a permanent, tight curl, almost as if in perpetual eagerness to clamp themselves on to a steering wheel. Two years after his acci-

dent, he even returned to

competitive driving, for Alfa

Romeo in the German touring car championship. He won 12 races in four years with the team and this season finished third in the race for the international touring car title. But it was only yesterday at this deserted circuit in the hills above Lisbon that the Italian, adored by his countrymen and all of grand prix racing for his easy charm and jovial stoicism, was able to bring his cycle of loss and suffering to an end at last.

Yesterday, Nannini, the win-

ner of the 1989 Japanese

GLOAGS

For that nod of approval!

The discerning fellow

demands

Gloag's

Gin in his

cocktail.

He knows

before he

drinks it that

it will be extra refreshing and extra

smooth. The unique 'marrying' process

following distillation

takes care of that!

THE Classic GIN.

the wheel of a Formula One car again.

His appearance offered a brief but rich glimpse of sentiment in a sport notorious for its cynicism, its dismissal of any frippery that does not bring commercial gain. Even more unusually for the sport. it represented the honouring of a promise, given by Flavio Briatore, the Benetton managing director, in the aftermath of his driver's accident, and made good over the past two days.

After one of the runs yesterday, Nannini, 37, who is naturally right-handed, used his teeth to pull his left glove off because he could not do it with his right hand. He wrestled his helmet off with only his left hand because his right is no help.

Despite this awkwardness, he astonished the clutch of Italian journalists

who had travelled here to see his comeback by beginning his twoday test on Monday by lapping the circuit in a best time of Imin 24.2sec, at speeds of up to 180mph, just two seconds slower than Jean

Alesi in the other Benetton. Yesterday afternoon, after he had improved his best time by nearly a second, he drove lap after lap until dusk fell as though he was reluctant to relinquish what is likely to be his final taste of the power and speed of a Formula One car. "When I first went out I was very nervous," he said. "After six years away, I was scared of making some sort of big mistake. But as I drove more laps. I became more confident. But there is no chance of me returning to Formula One full time. It was

like again. "The fact that I can't come hack is nothing to do with my arm really, because, with the power steering that is available now, that is not a problem. It is just that after such a big absence I would need to test for two or three months before I would know whether it was possible to come back and no team could afford to take the chance

fun, today, that was all, I just

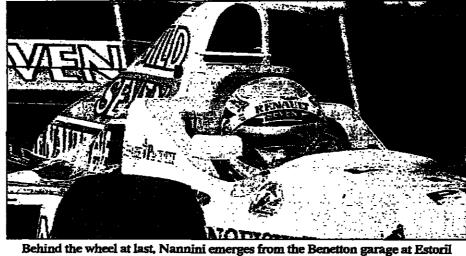
wanted to check what it was



Nannini, his right hand in a permanent, tight curl, prepares to return to a Formula One car after a six-year absence

That does not matter, though, I think. These two days are something I have wanted so badly for so long. It has helped me, it has allowed me to move on. It is no good thinking just about this sport. challenges all the time. Now, there will be different things."

Not once did he remove the plove from his right hand. They say the skin on it is a strange colour, like plastic. that he sacrificed being able to hold a pen so he could drive. When he heard that yesterday, Nannini confessed disappointment for the first time in his hand's performance. "It is not true, unfortunately," he said. "I can still sign cheques."



GOLF: SHERRY AMONG HOPEFULS WHO FAIL TO PASS QUALIFYING SCHOOL

Tour's last cut proves the deepest

GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN SAN ROQUE

STEWART CRONIN put a ball into his golf bag, zipped up a pocket and said: "Nearly." Gordon Sherry signed his card with a doleful look that told its own story. He was not going to be a star on the European Tour in 1997. Andrew Hare looked as though he was going to get his card at the qualifying school here, only to take 80. "What happened?" he was asked. "I missed a putt for a 79," was the reply.

What Cronin, Sherry and Hare had in common was that



Sherry: missed out

they had failed to finish among the top 40 and ties after the 108-hole competition that was concluded yesterday. The required total was nine over par - 441 - or better. Hare was ten over, Cronin II over and Sherry 12 over.

Two more to fail were Brian Ingleby, whose last round of 75 put him 15 over par, and Mike McLean. He had started the last round at 14 over par and got back to 12 over after nine holes, only to take a nine. All of them will be confined to the margins of professional golf in 1997. It's at moments

like this that I put on my Elvis
Presley tape, Make the World
go Away," Hare said. It was
his seventh visit to the school

qualified. For him, the worries
were over.

So they were for Joe Higgins, whose hole in one at the and it would be his last. "There comes a time when you have to say enough is enough," he said.

The scores show that Niclas Fasth, of Sweden, won the event, his last round of 73 giving him a 108-hole total of 428, four under par. Brian Davis, the Londoner who completed 23 top-ten finishes in mini-tour events in the United States, was one stroke behind, and John Wade, an Australian, was the third and last player to be under par. Steve Webster, the winner last year, came fourth on level nar.

The twin difficulties of playing a severe course in a strong wind and the enormous pressure of the last round affected most players. Level par was the best score of a day when the average was 75.5. There were 12 men under par at the start of the last day and only three at the end. Stephen Gallacher, Christian Cevaer and Bob Way, who all took 72 and finished seven over par. equalled the best scores of the

sixth round. There is nothing in golf in Europe like the scoreboard on the last day of this event. It is not for the squeamish. Paul Way, who did not play well enough to reach the last two rounds, spent several hours standing in front of the board. Ian Wright, who once caddied for Severiano Ballesteros, was there too, anxiously following the fortunes of Gordon J. Brand, the former Ryder Cup

Juan Quiros, his grey hair suggesting that he was 60 rather than 40, scampered restlessly from one end of the scoreboard to the other, safe in the knowledge that he had

gins, whose hole in one at the 3rd may have come at the most fortuitous time of his long career. Higgins, 38, a friend and contemporary of Ian Woosnam, has lost count of the number of times that he has been to the school. This time, though, he made it, albeit right on the mark of 441.

Another was Brand, who, at 4l, became the oldest man to win his card this year when he birdied his last hole. He was one of seven men who birdied card.

GUMMA

nearly the end for Alberto Binaghi. He was then nine over with plenty of danger left. He made light of it, however, by recording par figures on every hole until the 18th, which he birdied.

Few tales of woe could compare with Hare's, who dropped eight strokes in nine holes to plummet from four over par, and looking safe, to Il over. A birdie on the 18th took him back to ten over par. but that was not good enough. He failed to win his card by one stroke.

Qualifiers, page 51

(c) A syphilitic tumour. The plural is gummata. "Where's Uncle Tunku now, for God's sake?" you can safely exclaim in the presence of the children. "In the bedroom again, playing with UNNUN

(a) To defrock (metaphorically speaking) a nun. A delightful word in itself, and a formidable Scrabble weapon, to boot,

(c) A high quality Egyptian fabric used for wrapping mummies before putting them in their mummy-cases. The sort of tattered and rotting wrapping worn by Boris Karloff when be emerges from behind the panelling uttering unintelligible groans and howls. Oh, all right then — your mother's beach towel. DRACOCEPHALIC

(c) With a dragon-shaped head. From the Greek drako a dragon + kephalos a head. "You have an impressive profile. Aunt Theodora. You strike me as positively dracocephalic."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE Rxb8+! Kxb8 2 Qxe5+! fxe5 3 Rf8+ and mates

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Getting their own back

sational Women. Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.

Michele Roberts's literary assessment of Lady Caroline Lamb's Glenaryon is that there is "an excellent novel of manners hidden inside this great Gothic handbag". More interestingly, and certainly more topically, she asks us to consider affinities between Byron's croelly cast-off mistress and Diana, Princess of Wales. Caroline croelly cast-off mistress and Diana, Princess of Wales. Caroline Camb got her revenge by reprocessing her bitterness in the pages of Glenaryon, while the platform the Princess chose to reveal details of the internal turmoil was Panoruma. Glenaryon includes a possibly unique example of a novelist using a notorious real-life letter almost word for word in a work that is ostensibly a piece of fiction.

Pasts, Feasts and Festivals. Radio 4, 8.30pm.

Pasts, Feasts and Festivals. Radio 4, 8.30pm.

Thanks to Dickens and the bird ("There never was such a goose") that disappeared fast down the Cratchit family's gullets, the bird of the Anahdae family became a Victorian synonym for Christmas. It was not a book but a famous voyage that will put another fine feathered friend on American dinner tables tomorrow, Thanksgiving Day. The Pilgrim Fathers who crossed the Atlantic in 1620 had their first sight, and taste, of the bird of the genus Meleagris gallopavo, more salivatingly known as turkey. Tonight, Anna Hill joins some expatriate Americans in Cheshire who will again bless the Mayflower pilgrims as they gobble down their Thanksgiving Day commemorative turkeys.

RADIO 1

7.00em Chris Evans, includes Traffic Update 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lise l'Anson 2.00 Nicky Carnobell 4.00 Mari Goodler 7.00 Evening Session, with Jo Whiley and Stave Lamacq 9.00 Z zine, with news feetures and ews 10.00 Nark Radcille 12.00 Claire Sturgess 4.00 Clive Warren RADIO 2

6.00cm Masin Keiner 7.30 Wake Up to Wogen 9.30 Ken 'Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Oebble Thrower 9.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Helen Sharman 7.00 Jim Lloyd, with Folk on 2 8.00 The Inner Temple. A new series in which lein Anderson charts 20 years of Temple Records (1/4) 8.30 Bleance A new comedy series with Richard Digance (1/6) 9.00 Tommy Malam's Irish Music (3/5) 9.30 Nigel Ogden 10.30 The Jamesons 12.06cm Steve Marchen 3.60 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

S.00ems. Morning Reports, Incl. at 5.45
Weise Up to Money 6.00 The Bresidest Programme, Incl. at 6.55, 7.55 record preview 8.35 The Megazine, with Diame Madill 12.00 Middley with Mari, Incl. at 12.35pm Moneyoteck 2.05 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Edita, Incl. at 7.20 Sports Bulletin 7.20 Trevor Brooking's. Footbell Night. Feetsming coverage of the Cocs-Cole Cup lourth round 10.05 The Belter Une 11.00 Night Edite, with Valente Sanderson 12.05em After Houss, with John Diamond 2.05 Up All Night, with Rhod Sharp. All Night, with Rivod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00em Estly Breskfast 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Anne Re-burn 2.00pm Tornmy Boyd 4.00. Drivetime, with Pater Dealey 7,00 Moz.

6.00mm On Air, with Andrew McGregor, Includes Faure (Cello Soneta No 2 in G

ata No 2 in G-117): Howells

Mendelsschri (Trumpet Overture); Berlioz (La Captive

Op 12) Musical Encounters, with

Rossini (Overture La Cambiale di Matrimonio); Vivaldi (Rue Concerto in F.

Wasel (Fide Concerts of Fig. 1943), La Tempesta di Mare); Nielsen (An Imaginary Trip to the Farge Islands)
Composers of the Week; Attaction Symptomistics

12.00 Cd

O Composers of the Week: Assericen Symptonists. Wuodnen (A Reiguery for Igor Stravinsky): Hams (Symphory No 5); Louisville Orchestra, conductor Robert Whitney Iron Messer Birmington.

and Finale on a Theme or.
Beethoven (Plano Sonata in C minor, Op 111)

Midweek Choice, with Susan Sharpe, includes Purcell (They That Go Down to the Sea in Ships, 257); Grainger

1.00pm News; Birmingham Lunchtime Concert. Raymond Clarke, piano. Robert Simpson (Variations and Finale on a Theme of

Mairi Nicolson, Includes

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT News on the hour.

5.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe
Today 7.15 Off the Shelf 7.30 Discovery
8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Concert Hall
9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Andy
Kershaw 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.30
BBC English 10.45 Off the Shelf 11.30
Pick of the World 12.05pm World
Business Report 12.15 Britain Today
12.30 Composer of the Month 2.05
Outbook 2.30 Megarrax 3.05 Sports
Roundup 3.15 Concert Half 4.15 World
Today 4.30 BBC English 4.45 Britain
Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45
Sports Roundup 6.30 Discovery 7.01
Outbook 7.25 Worlds of Faith 7.30 Multitrack 9.05 World Business Report 9.15
Britain Today 9.30 Meridian On Screen
10.30 World Today 10.45 Sports
Roundup 11.10 Science View 11.15
Country Style 11.30 Multitrack 12.30am
From Our Own Correspondent 12.45
Britain Today 1.30 Outbook 1.55 World
of Faith 2.30 Assignment 3.15 Sport
3.30 Meridian Books 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00ps Concerto Finz (Clannet Concerto in C minor, Op 31) 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Sonsta. Martinu (Fluta Sonsta) 7.00 Gardening Forum (r) 8.00 Concert Beathover (Egmont Overture, Op 84), Mozzin (Fluta Concerto in G); Brahms (Variations on a Theme of Haydn, Op 56a); Prokofeer (Symphony No 3 in C officor; Op 44), 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Met Cooper

VIRGIN BADIO

6.00mm Russ 'n' Jono's Breakdest Experience 10.00 Grattern Dene 1.00pm Jerenty Clark AUD Nicky Home 7.00 Pauf Coyle (RM) / Robin Barris (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00mm Randel Lee Rose

5.00 The Music Mactaine. Tommy Pearson takes his pariner for belicom dancing 5.15 fit Turne. Includes Debussy. est Helfetz (Beeu Sor) Strawnsky (Symphony in

1 Tites and Mysterious

- Harmony, Bruckner
described Symphory No 6 in
A as his boldest, Stephen
definion and Bruckner
scholars examine the work includes a performance by the BBC Philharmonic

Barnert 9.00 Still Life with Kazin. The writer and critic Alfred Kazin talks about Robert Lowell Allen Tate and Walker Percy 9.25 Calintetto Brassil. Brass music and arrangements from north eastern Brazil Includes Jobim, arr Adail (Ela e carioca); Dimas Sedicias (Trezentas Leguas): Duda

Fernas Nord 10.00 Voices: Carl Loewe. To bicentenery of the German composer's birth, Richa tokes presents a selecti ellads performed by lan Bostridge, tenor, Gerald Fintey, baritone, Julius Drake, piano. Includes Susses

Begräbnis; Lyceus, der Thumer, auf Fausts Thurner, auf Fausts
Sternwarts Singende;
Wandrers Nachtlied

10.45 Night Waves. Hermione Lee
invites past performers and
directors to reflect on Much
Ado About Nothing

11:30 Composers of the Weelc
Bartok and Kodaly (r)

12 20am -lazz Notes

O News 7.05 The Archers
Millestones. Lesley Riddoch
chairs the programme in
which key players behind the
social change in Britain's
postwar history discuss their
legacy. Tonight: 23 August
1977 — The Grünwick Strike
Prochosts: Earneyses

1977 — The Grunwick Strike
8.20 Footnotes: Earnest
"Chinese" Wilson. Martin
Wainwright celebrates the
achievements of figures
neglected by history. Wilson
was a plant hunter who made
rumerous trips to China in the
late 19th century and whom
we have to thank for the My
and the law truit

and the kind full
and the kind full
and the kind full
and feets, Feests and Feetivels.
See Choice
9.00 Costing the Earth, with Mark
Whittsker
9.30 Kateldoscope (r) 9.59
Weather

Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with

19.35 Budget Statement by Gordon Brown, the Shadow

RADIO 4 6.00 Sht O'Clock News 6.30 Quote ... Unquote. Sir David Hunt, Dr Rosellind Miles, Dr David Starkey and June Whitlield poin Nigel Rees for the quotation quiz. (r) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Milestones. Legar Pitteles

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 Navs Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Preyer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.58

Sea in Ships, 257); Grainger (Fathasy on George Gershwin's Porgy, and Bess)
4.00 Choral Evensong, Live from the Cathedral and Abbey, Church of St. Abban, Includes Introlt: Cherubic Hymn (Grechaninov); Hesponses (Clucas); Pastims 75, 76 (Boyoe, Crotch); First Lesson: Isalah 40v 27-41; v ?, Office Hymn; How Shall I Sing That Majesty? (Coe Pen); Carticles: Smart in B flat;

tor the Lay easy long water Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Budget Call 10.00 News; Sensational Women (FM). See Choice (4/6) 10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jerni 44 was

Murray . 11.30 Gardeners' Question Time with Nigel Colourt, Pippa Greatwood and John Cushnie and chairman Eric nors' Guestion Time,

Robson (f)
12.00 News; You and Yours12.25pm King Street Junior, by Richard Stoneman, Karl Howman and James Grout star (1/8); Followed by Weather

Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55

Shipping 2.00 News; Victoria Station II, by Steve Chambers, A new crame set in Victoria Station.

Bridgford, exectly a century ago. With Seen Baker and Gavin Muir (1/4) 7 Treasure Islands, with Michael Rosen. Award.

Michael Rosen, Awardwinning sother lan Strächen
talks about writing for children
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift
4.00 News; 4.05 Kateidoscope,
Paul Gambacchi seas the
film version of Roddy Doyle's;
The Van and a film about life
in Anth Werbot's Season. I'ille Van and a liftim about life in Andy Warhot's Factory. Also, raviews of Ashley Page's new ballet 4.45 Short Story: Salt Lagoons, by Chistopher Burns, Read by Gavin Mulr 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping 5.55

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer 10.45 Book at Bedfilme. Anchy and Merhitabet, by Don Marquis (3/8)

11.00 The Shuttleworths.

11.10 The Shuttleworths.

11.30 Trust (FM) (3/8) (/)

12.00 Rews incl 12.27em approx Weather

12.30 The Late Books Carot, by Patricis Highsmith (3/12)

12.48 Shipping 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.8-93.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198: MW 198 (12.4-6-55mi). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO FM 105.8. MW 1197, 1215. TALK. RADIO, MW 1053, 1088. Television, and 1081. Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNeyman.

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After this, fear of flying is hardly kids' stuff

There are many things. I'm ashamed to say, that frighten the life out of me, but right at the top of my list of personal terrors are two things aeroplanes and small children. Put them together and you have my worst nightmare ("stop kicking the seat in front, Casper, can't you see the gentleman is terrified"). Keep them apart and you have ... two of my worst nightmares.

What makes an aeroplane stay in the sky? What makes a fouryear-old behave properly? I do not know and sadly, after two hours careful viewing last night - or as careful as you can be when watching through your fingers ened man.

Given its title, it was pretty clear that the answer to question one, as far as Black Box (Channel 4) was concerned, was "not enough". So it

failing to defy the laws of gravity. Well, what do you expect if you stick several hundred tons of aluminium 30,000 feet up in the sky? That it would fly?

The documentary, which I assume was American-made, reminded me of two things. The first was the old joke about the black box — if it always survives a plane crash, why don't they make the whole plane out of the same stiff? The second is the current controversy surrounding David Cronenberg's tasteful little film. kicks from car crashes. They would love Black Box.

It had everything Lingering from behind the sofa—I still don't video footage of wreckage fields.
know I remain, therefore, a fright computer simulations of doomed. flights and all too real conversations picked up from the cockpit voice recorder. We're going down, Larry." Larry knew that. That particular flight ended up

the National Transportation Board popped up to hold forth in that eloquent way that Americans seem to find so easy - while they're safely on the ground. "The bottom line," warned the gravelvoiced Rudi, "is if you've got ice on the airplane, you're probably

goona die." We also met Greg, self-pro-

we were treated to more lingering video of the pathetic attempts to

rescue a handful of survivors. The

doom-laden narration helpfully

identified a woman struggling in the icy water who, as well as being

temporarily blinded by kerosene,

"had left her husband and baby

behind in the plane". As much as

the subject matter, it was this

voveuristic quality to the film that

n between the "aw, shit

L end of so many, members of

bang" that heraided the

made it so unpalarable.

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

"Crash I" who thought that putting what he described as "the puzzle" back together again was the greatest job in the world. It was tough, but he was the man to do it, oh yes sirree. "Once you have smelt an accident site, you never forget it." Now there's something those Singapore girls never tell

At least Roger Graef found some proved, with plane after plane in the frozen Potomac river, where claimed "tin-kicker" and driver of grounds for optimism as he

parked his cameras on the walls of similar unit in Liverpool, which Marlborough House, a Wiltshire meant that much of the method day unit for what most of us would describe as problem children. The staff talked about children with behavioural, speech and learning difficulties. The camera, for Network First: Breaking the Cycle (ITV), revealed a bunch of hyperactive, aggressive little monsters. Or at least that's what they were when they went in.

When they came out several oneday-a-weeks and much screaming. wailing and gnashing of milk teeth later they were ... well, I think they were much improved, although at times it seemed the improvement owed as much to skilful editing as it did to the hard work in the classroom.

Graef's narration described the unit as appearing to be unique. but, if he had been watching Panorama recently, he would know that appearances can be deceptive. The BBC found a very

used in the Wiltshire centre rewarding good behaviour, ignor-

ing bad — was already familiar.

The BBC's use of hidden cameras a few weeks ago had made it impossible not to judge the parents of the children involved. Graef, however, although his cameras did visit a couple of homes, echoed the teaching system by not apportioning blame. That didn't stop us watching at home, of course, using the tried and trusted technique of trial by social stereotype. How good a mother could you be if your one-year-old daughter already had pierced ears? Answer? As good as your endlessly whining four- and six-year-old sons allow you to be.

t the end of an hour. I wasn't sure how much closer I was to answering my question about how to make small children behave properly. The fly-

THE TOTAL PROPERTY OF THE PARTY
12.55pm HOME AND AWAY (4792534)

1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (24829621)

5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7052553)

7.00-7.30 WHEEL OF FORTUNE (4244)

12.55am BUSHELL ON THE BOX (3032799)

WESTCOUNTRY

12,55 CORONATION STREET (4792534)

2.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (1018485)

5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (7052553)

7,00-7.30 WHEEL OF FORTUNE (4244)

10,50 WESTCOUNTRY MATCH (857008)

MERIDIAN

1.25-1.55 CROSS WITS (39358534)

1.55 HOME AND AWAY (29502195)

6.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (90553)

10.50 CENTRAL SPORTS (9413640)

1.25 CROSS WITS (39358534)

2.50-3.20 HOOK AND ((6670669)

6.25 CENTRAL NEWS (718517)

6.55 LIFELINE: FOOD (862843)

12.00 BON JOVI (3102480)

1.25 GOD'S GIFT (9176225)

2.20 DEAR NICK (1827190)

3.15 IN FOCUS (7643751)

2.25 VANESSA (57843331)

As HTV West except

As HTV West except

12.55 CROSS WITS (4792534)

2.20 VANESSA (57844060)

1.25 HOME AND AWAY (39358534)

5.10 HOME AND AWAY (7052553)

6.00 MERIDIAN TONIGHT (447)

6.30 PUT IT TO THE TEST (517)

10.50 MERIDIAN FOCUS (188176)

1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (24829621)

2.50-3.20 PERFECTLY PETS (6670669)

11.20 PRISONER CELL BLOCK H (170621)

2.20 VANESSA (57644060)

As HTV West except

up half-answers - maintaining eye contact was important at some points, just as avoiding it was crucial at others. But which? And what about these much talked about but little seen "physical prompts". How physical did they need to be? But, I suppose, halfanswers are better than none.

Problem children don't come much more problematical than poor, mad Joe in EastEnders. which shows no sign of pausing for breath, or indeed credibility. after David's tearful departure. Grant married, Phil drinking the dish-washer, Peggy in danger of waking-up in the concrete founda-tions of Walford fly-over, Gita in the Sanjay way ... the storylines go on and on. But please, before any of them go any further can we resolve Joe's? If I hear Lorraine sav "he's been a bit down recently" just once more, I'll do something drastic. Bubble-wrap the television.

BBC1 6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (78027) 7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (T) (39058) 9.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (T)

9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (1049602) 9.45 KB ROY (8508176) 10.30 CANT COOK, WON'T COOK WITH

Ainsley Harnott (78843) 11.00 NEWS (T) (2391089) 11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (4919008) 11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (5729060)

12.00 NEWS (T) (4652069) 12.05pm POLICE RESCUE (2362534) 12.55 THE WEATHER SHOW (51619282) 1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (89535) 1.20 REGIONAL NEWS (14911718) 1.40 NEIGHBOURS (T) (24822718)

2.00 SNOOKER: UK Championship David Vine presents the first two quarter-final from the Guild Hall in Preston (770756) 3.50 CHUCKLEVISION (r) (8919027) 4.10 Get Your Own Back (5319466) 4.35 The Queen's Nose (†) (1550263) 5.00 Newsround (†) (6005973) 5.10 Blue Peter (†) (2127973)

5.35 NEIGHBOURS (r) (T) (358404) 6.00 NEWS (T) and weather (379). 6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (331) 7.00 SMALL TALK presented by Rongie

Corbett (1) (9176) 7.30 HERE AND NOW Sue Lawley and the team with more news reports, items of 8.00 HOW DO THEY DO THAT? Earnorm

Holmas and Esther McVey provide the answers to some seemingly impossible questions. Discover how 100 subma-iners can escape from 600 feet in smalter of seconds. Plus, how Yorkshire, factory. workers rescued a dying community (1)

-8.50 POINTS OF VIEW (452060) 9.30 BUDGET RESPONSE by the Shadow.

Chancelior (T) (612176) THE X FILES: Revelation whose death could trigger the coming of Armageddon (T) (253973)

10.25 HARRY ENFIELD AND CHUMS A rerun for Harry Enfields's successful series from 1994 (r) (I) (423379) WALES: Kenn's Weles

Kane's Wal 10.55 SPORTSNIGHT Des Lynam introduces. oker: action from the quarter-finals

of the UK Chempionships in Preston; Racing: A profile of lockey Frankie Detror: Football: Highlights of tonight's FA Cup first-round replays; Rugby Union: An examination of the current state of the game one year after becoming a professional sport 12.35am FILM: Distant Thunder (1988)

starring John Lithgow. After his discharge from the army, a Vietnam vetaran abandons his family and moves to the mountains. Directed by Rick Rosenthal (693454) WALES: Harry Enfield 1.05-2.50am FILM: Distant Thunder 2.25 WEATHER (7759577) **

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes The numbers ned to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode** numbers, which allow you to programme your video necordary instends with a VideoPlus+** Insuriest, Taging the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (**), PlusCode (**) and Video Programmer are "trademarker of Germster Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: Relative Risks 2992) 6.50 The Chemistry of the tible (9808244) 7.15 See Hear News (6930534) 7.30 Per Penelope Pitstop (4608911) 7.55 It'll Never Work (7136805) 8.20 Christopher

Crocodie (8553621) 8.25 Monty (5431331) 8.35 The Record (6449824) 9.00 Le Café Des Rêves (1067008) 9.25 See You, See Me (6826244) 9.45 Words and Pictures (8031440) 10.00 Playdays (59621) 10.30 Numbertime (3479486) 10.45 Wetch Natural History (3467621) 10.46 Wesch Nesural History (3467621)
11.09 Around Scotland (5993060) 11.20
Music Makers (7663824) 11.40 English
Express (6742911) 12.00 German Globo
(4643331) 12.05pm Seeing Through
Science (4527176) 12.30 Working
Lunch (95008) 1.00 The Geography
Programme (80191599) 1.20 Thunderbirds in Hindi (48696176) 1,25 Zig Zeg (89268916) 1,45 Come Outside (14921195) 2,00 Christopher Crocodile (46231008) 2,05 Monty (46230379)

2.10 THE CHAMPIONS (5348282) 3.00 NEWS (4768447)

3.05 WESTMINSTER (1) (6256602). 3.55 NEWS (5488195) 4.00 SNOOKER (9553) 6.00 STAR TREK: The Next Generation (r)

(I) (437602) 8.45 TREV AND SIMON'S Transmission ble (710535)

7.00 TESTAMENT — The Bible in Animation: Joseph (T) (7718) 7.30 FROM THE EDGE (1) (485) 8.00 TRUST ME. I'M A DOCTOR Donne Bernard meets Norman Dalton who suffered post-traumatic stress sydrome

as a result of coming round in the middle of a heart bypass operation (T) (6466) 8.30 OPEN RHODES Gary Rhodes heads for the tishing town of Whitby, North Yorkshire (5973)



The new Beroness of Leyny (9.00pm)

MODERN TIMES: To the Manor Bought Robert Smith nges for aristocrats to self their titles to the nouveau-riche (T) (893466)

9.45 SNOOKER (283114) 10.30 BUDGET RESPONSE by the Shadow Chancellor (631244) 10.35 NEWSNIGHT (T) (384737)

DEATH IN THE FAMILY The story of Paul Brady, who was tried for the mercy killing of his brother

12.00 THE MIDNIGHT HOUR (54312) 12.30 THE LEARNING ZONE: O U: Newton's Revolution (57436) 1.00 The Physics of Ball Games (71664) 1.30 Magnetic Fields in Space (11770) 2.00 Technology Starters (50503) 4.00 English Heritage (63585) 4.30 Modern Apprenticeships (92157) 5.00 Health and Safety at Work (37732) 5.30 The Adviser (55041)

CHOICE Inspector Morse: The Daughters of Cain

rrv. 8.00pm Old Grumpy is back and the friends of Morse (more than 16 million at the last count) can happily settle down to a couple of hours of civilised detection. A small piece of history is made tonight. This is the first case for John Thaw's gruff, opera-loving sleuth since the world learnt that his given name was Endeavour. But do not expect him to flaunt it. The show is back on familiar territory as Morse and his eternal sidekickcum-punchbag, Lewis (Kevin Whately), set out to solve the murder of a retired academic at Oxford. As usually happens, the progress towards unmasking the killer is slow, discursive and, at times, almost impossibly complicated. The cast includes Phyllic Logan, Gabrielle Lloyd and Tony Haygarth with James Grout providing his usual delightful cameo as the irascible Superintendent Strange.

Modern Times: To the Manor Bought

Anybody, it seems, can join the aristocracy for a price. Feudal baronies can cost up to £100,000, somewhat less in Ireland, while a lordship of the manor can be a mere snip for droll film is a classic study in supply and demand. Genuine aristocrats, who find themselves in need of ready cash, are all too happy to sell off their surplus titles. And there is no shortage of commoners desperate to be called Lord this or Lady that. Robert Smith, a former Fleet Street journalist, has made himself a nice living acting as middleman for these off-the-peg handles. Among those entering the market is Lord Spencer, brother of Diana, Princess of Wales, who faces a huge plumbing bill. He is selling the Lordship of the Manor of Wimbledon.

BBC1, 9.40mm

#This series has never been known to shrink from challenging plots, even when they range our resident FBI agents against murky business in their own government. But devotees of The X Files may feel that getting into religion is a bit tricky even for this show, particularly when it becomes personal. For while Mulder (David Duchovny) approaches rumours of stigmata with professional scepticism. Scully (Gillian Anderson) turns out to be a good Christian prepared to believe in miracles. She even goes to confession, for the first time in six years. The plot features a serial killer of people whose bleeding hands have echoed the wounds of Christ. The likely next victim is a schoolboy in Ohio. If the boy dies, i could mean Armageddon and, presumably, the end of The X-Files as we know it.

Death in the Family

BBC2, 11.20pm (not Scotland) Paul Brady made history this autumn as the first person to go before a Scottish court charged with a so-called mercy killing. The facts were not in dispute. Paul's brother, Jim. was a victim of the incurable Huntington's disease and had begged his family to end his misery. On Boxing Day last year Paul gave him an overdose of drugs and smothered him with a pillow. The film is only partly concerned with the rights and wrongs of concerned with the rights and wrongs of enthanasia. Its main purpose is to explore the impact of Huntington's disease, which is hereditary and attacks the central nervous system. Jim inherited it from his mother. who had the disease for 20 years before it was diagnosed. There is a 50 per cent chance that it will attack Jim's sister, Margaret, who speaks bravely about its devastating effect on the family. Peter Waymark 6.00am GMTV (1445669)

9.25 SUPERMARKET SWEEP (1057621) 9.55 REGIONAL NEWS (2873718) 10.00 THE TIME ... THE PLACE (57447) 10.30 THIS MORNING (24875824) 12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (1) (4641973)

12.30 NEWS and weather (T) (4717843) 12.55 SHORTLAND STREET (4792534) 1.25 Coronation Street (T) (r) (7698195) 2.00 Home and Away (T) (57840244) 2,25 Cross Wits (T) (57869379) 2,50 Vanessa (T) (6670669) 3,20 NEWS (T)

3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (4774008) 3.30 TOTS TV (3284398) 3.40 The Singing Kettle News (7107060) 3.50 Zzzap! (8904195) 4.10 Animaniecs (4742089) 4.15 Fantomost (T) (5303805) 4.40 Matt's Million (4754824)

5.10 WHEEL OF FORTUNE (7052553) 5.40 NEWS and weather (T) (273602) 6.00 HOME AND AWAY (1) (T)

6.25 HTV 7.00 SPORTSWEEK The latest news and highights from the sporting events from the region (4244) 7.30 CORONATION STREET Deirdre finds herself trozen out. Liz confronts Steve (T)



8.00 INSPECTOR MORSE: The Daughters of Cain When two men are murdered in Oxford, Chief Inspector Morse and Sergeant Lewis suspect, in turn, the second victim's longsuffering wife, his beautiful step-daughter and a schoolmistress. But each seems to With John Thaw and Kevin Whately (1)

10.00 ITN NEWS AT TEN and weather (55992) 10.30 REGIONAL NEWS (384824) 10.40 BUDGET 96: THE SHADOW

CHANCELLOR (648534)

10.50 WEST MATCH PLUS Action from tonight's Coca-Cola Cup lourth-round, featuring the region's clubs. Plus action from an international speedskating meeting in Bormio, Italy featuring skaters from Bristol and Swindon (9413640) 11.50 HUNTER: Down and Under Hunter travels to Australia in search of the

suspects in an LA murder investigation (783244) 12.50am REAL STORIES OF THE HIGHWAY PATROL Featuring a Boston officer's encounter with an unlicensed driver high

on drugs (3033428) 1.20 GOD'S GIFT (7199480) 2.20 CYBER.CAFE (2696225) 2.50 DEAR NICK (2766157)

3.50 NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE EXTRA (r) (8648751)
4.30 THE TIME . . . THE PLACE (r) (89683) 5.00 DUTY FREE (1) (64886) 5.30 ITN MORNING NEWS (59867)

A new mystery for Morse (8,00pm)

12.15am ALFRED HITCHCOCK (8553206) ANGLIA As HTV West except: 12.55pm CROSS WITS 4792534) 1.25 HOME AND AWAY (39358534)

1.55 JUSTICE OF THE LAND (24829621) 2.20 VANESSA (57844060) 2.50-3.20 HOPE AND GLORIA (6670669) 5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7052553) 6.30 ANGLIA NEWS (517) 7.00-7.30 WHEEL OF FORTUNE (4244) 10.50 MIDWEEK KICK-OFF! (86996447)

Starte: 7.00 THE BIG REFAKEAST (92008 9.00 HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER (72669) 9.30 YSGOLION (910640) 12.00 HOUSE TO HOUSE (52805) 12.30pm LIFT OFF (80176) 1.00 SLOT MEITHRIN (95195) 1.30 THE LIVING SEA (89447) 2.00 Film: THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE (2761263) 3.15 THE MONTEL WILLIAMS SHOW (6667282) 4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (640) 4.30 ANTON MOSIMANN: NATURALLY (824) 5.00 5 PUMP (5350) 5.30 COUNTDOWN (176) 6.00 NEWYDDION (983640) 6.05 HENO (568094) 6.35 SION A SIAN (251553) 7.00 POBOL Y CWM (379718) 7.25 ROMANI RAI (537621) 8.00 MOM: SELAND NEWYDD (1534) 8.30 NEWYDDION (1599) 9.00 WANTED (2350) 10.00 BROOKSIDE (691379) 10.35 BLACK BOX (859466) 11.35 CAROLINE IN THE CITY (346824) 12.05am ANIMAL CANNIBALS (3120886) 1.05 FOUR-MATIONS: ELECTRIC PASSIONS (4913206) 1.40 J'ADORE THE

6.30am TAKE FIVE (64737) 7.00 The Big Breaklast (92008) 9.00 Here's One Made Earlier (72669) 9.30 SCHOOLS Good Health 9.45 Book Box 10.00 Stage Two Science 10.45 Co Smn Is Carson Rat-A-Tat-Tat 11.45 First Edition (r) (910640) 12.00 House to House (52805) 12.30pm Lift Off (80176) 1.00 Sesame Street (78331) 2.00 Mr Frog Went a

Courting (46226176) 2.05 FILM: The Male Animal (1942) with Henry Fonda as a college professor whose life starts to unravel when his wife's old flame turns up Also starring Olivia de Havilland and Jack Carson Directed by Eliott Nugent (238195)

4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (T) (640) 4.30 Countdown (T) (824) 5.00 Ricki Lake (T) (5633008) 5.45 Never Mind (r) (T)

6.00 PARTY OF FIVE (T) (446350) 6.50 FRESH POP (596398) 7.00 CHANNEL 4 NEWS (T) (384466) 7.55 THE SLOT (627027)



George Christopher (8.00pm)

8.00 BROOKSIDE Little Jimmy takes revenge for the past. (T) (1534) 8.30 WANTED Action adventure 1

teams of two pursued across Britain by Oleg Gordievsky, the former Soviet spy, and John O'Connor, tormer head of the Flying Squad Presented by Richard Littlejohn (12466)

9.30 FILM: Untarned Love (1994) Based on the true story of a special needs teacher who discovers one of her class has been abused. She decides to rehabilitate her rather then let the courts place her in an institution. With Calhy Lee Crosby. Directed by Paul Aaron (390260)

11.15 RORY BREMNER — WHO ELSE? (1)

(T) (605992) 11.55 WEEKLY PLANET Jon Snow chairs a discussion on the threat to the mental health of the world's population. The quests include the novelist Fay Weldon

(843517) 1.25am DISPATCHES (r) (4281374)

2.10 INVISIBLE ENEMIES: Origins of ease The first of a four-part series in which Dr Norman Swan probes the

disease (r) (T) (2418886) 3.10 SPIRIT OF FREEDOM: Days of Contempt Writer Bernard-Henri Levy presents his personal account of how ed to the Occupation and the threat of fascism. In French with English subtitles (2/4) (r) (1055799)

4.10 FILM: I Love You Again (1940, b/w) with William Powell and Myma Loy. A conti-dence trickster has to court his wile again when he gets his memory back after eight years of amnesia. Directed by W.S. Van Dyke II (147683)

listings of satellite and cable. channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

7.00em Love Connection (ST25N65) 7.200
Press Your Luck (\$106602) 7.40 Jeopardy (\$167805) 8.10 Hotel (\$243843) 9.90
Another World (\$080244) 8.45 Oprah Wintrey (\$340203) 10.40 Real TV (785511) 11.10 Saby Jessy Rephael (\$622932) 12.00
Geraldo (2905) 1.00pm 1 to 5 (\$9000) 3.00 Jenny Jones (\$5176) 4.00 Oprah Wintrey (47811) 5.00 Star Trek (4253) 5.00
The New Advertures of Superman (18673) 7.00 The Simpsons (5982) 7.30 M*A*S*H (\$716) 8.00 Speed: (6982) 9.00 The Ouer Lunts (88755) 10.00 Star Trek Viewers Choice (\$1843) 11.00 The New Advertures of Superman (\$2566) 7.200 LA*P.D. Superman (25350) 12.00 LAP.D. 36) 12.30am Real TV (45190) 1.00 Hz

7.00pm Star Treic Deep Space Niars: (6191783) 8.00 Televier (7613981) 9.00 Deliberate Stranger (3141488) 11.00 Late Stow, with David Late Hateman (2297331) 12.00 FILM: The Decemed (8468848) 2.00eas HR Mix Long Play (7411783) SKY NEWS

6.00am Strangers: The Story of a Motiver and Daughter (1979) (50535) 8.00 Medicine River (1983) (50176) 10:00 The Salzburg Connection (1972) (4436) The Salzburg Connection (1972) (4456) 12.00 Mrs: Doubtiles (1903) (19297) 12.00pm The Power Wittim (194) (72195) 4.00 The Nephune Factor (1973) (9196) 6.00 Heck's Way Home (1995) (24718) 7.30 21 Massa week in Roview (6114) 5.00 Mrs: Doubtiles (1993) (64175) 10.00 Street Fighter (1994) (666465) 11.50 Seamed Maties (1993) (22646) 1.30ara A. New Life (1988) (643515) 3.10 Death Hund (1981) (523363) 4.45 Heck's Way Home (1995) 774480

6.00am it Should Happen to You (1954) (71075) 7.30 The Garden (1994) (21553) 8.30 Little Orbit the Astrodog (83447)

19.00 The Counterfeit Contesses (1994) (3544) 12.00 Richle Rich (1984) (11669) 2.00pm: The Secret of the Incas (1954) (17937) 4.00 Shericot Holmes A Study in Souriet (1984) (30521) 5.00 Shericot Holmes: The Valley of Fear (1983) (7973) 8.00 Cagney and Lacey: True Convictions (1985) (3274) 10.00 Boys on the Side (1985; 85085) 12.00 Color of Night (1984) (40628916) 2.05em The Joy Unit Calb (1983) (88621918) 8.25 it Should Happen to You (1984) (19621864) SKY MOVIES GOLD

4,00pm Only Angels Have Wings (1939) (8883785) 8,00 The Bartestan and the Geistin (1959) (2123065) 8,00 Moon-struck (1959) (2123065) 10,00 Marsthon Man (1979) (22304534) 12,10am Darling (1965) (21035231) 2,15 Faster, Possyodi Nim. (807) (1986) (5293003) 3,45-5,25 Badman's Territory (1946) (1224935) THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00mm Mouse Tracks (649879): 6.25 Cusck: Assack (6400114) 8.35 Borless (6962027) 7.15 Derlowing Duck (9846185) 7.40 Aladdin (3854992) 8.05 Migrity Ducks (2538927) 8.40 Borless: (236782) 9.05 Mouse Tracks (690776) 8.20 89g Garage (7184080) 8.45 Lamb Chop's Play Along! (31231): 10.15 Mappel Bobles (878278) 18 40 Adventures in Wonderstan (2698486) 10.40 Adventures in Wonderland (26494 11_10 Clusck Attack (7884447) 11.40 Under

11-10 Cuack Associ (788447) 11.40 Under The Unbrids Tree (9888199) 12.10pm Fraggie Rock (6894027) 12.35 Lamb Chap's Play Along (289278) 1.25 Lamb Chap's Play Along (289278) 1.30 Aladdin (6122053) 2.25 Wat Disney Presents (220214) 3.20 Moune Tracks (2174905) 3.50 Bonkers (1678176) 4.15 Good Troop (7898911) 4.35 Darkwing Duck (7478279) 5.00 Aladdin (169090) 5.26 Timon and Pumbias (8290805) 5.38 Bonkers (931114) 8.00 Mighty Ducks (5282) 8.30 Bossom (6534) 7.00 Home Improvement (5089) 7.30 Dr. Cusin (971602) 8.15 Cushed by an Angel (420563) 9.00 Lile's Work (27195) 9.30-10.00 Home Improvement (52468) Sity Microtes Gold baloss over at 10pm. SKY SPORTS 1

7.00mm Sports Centre (69718) 7.30 The Footballers' Football Show (26621) 8.30 Racing News (79621) 9.00 Sports Centre (50973) 9.30 Aerobics Oz Style (75832) 10.00 NBA Basketball (27756) 12.00

Aerobics Cz Syle (20737) 12.30pm FA Cup First Round Replay (49905) 2.30 The Footballers' Football Show (98176) 3.30 Cicket Hong Kong Sass (39282) 4.30 Saling (3805) 4.59 Sports Carrier (7553973) 5.00 The Footballers' Football Show (7379) 6.00 Sports Centre (4988) 6.30 Grass Roos Rugby (8950) 7.00 Golt Australian Open (791737) 1.00 Sports Centre (91465) 10.30 Futbol Mundial (90114) 11.00 Grass Roots Rugby (91756) 11.30 World Windourfug Tour (40195) 12.00 World Windourfug Tour (40195) 12.00 World of Sporte Centre (84206) 1.00 Golf-World Cup (82852) 2.00 Futbol Mundial (39833) 2.30-3.00 Sports Centre (17190) SKY SPORTS 3 .

12.00 Beach Volleybell (25723756) 1.00pm Golf: Australian Open (52223375) 4.00 World Cup of Golf (50820843) 5.00 World of Speed and Beauty (28238502) 5.30 Windsuffing (10358027) 8.00 Beach Volley-bell (25712940) 7.00 Sports Centre (36858468) 7.30 Football Coca-Cola Cup — Live (57224876) 10.00 World Cup of Golf (38272843) 11.00 Rebell Sports (50898244) 11.30-12.00 Sports Centre (99376718)

EUROSPORT PUROSPORT

7.30am Alpha Skirig (31553) 9.00
Paragliding (95669) 9.30 Editorne Gernes (44114) 10.30 Tristhion: Hawai Ironman (84553) 11.00 Marathon: Women's International (84843) 11.30 Nordic Combined Storig (10244) 12.30pm Brobselgin (87331) 1.30 Strawboarding (25337) 2.00 Adventure: Delemitien Mann 1995 (2060) 2.30 BMX: (8737) 3.00 In-line Starting (1195) 3.00 Eurolun (3282) 4.00 Motors (85185) 5.00 FIFA Fulsal World Champonship (808027) 8.15 FIFA Fulsal World Champonship (808027) 8.15 FIFA Fulsal World Champonship (856447) 7.00 Extrano Gernes (67350) 9.00 World Trickshot Masless (92973) 11.00 Equestrenism World Cup (83334) 12.00-12.30 Surling (23485) (83534) 12.00-12.30 Surling (23480)

GRANADA PLUS 8.00am Ruraway (8348534) 6.30 Tickle on the Turn (85976027) 6.45 1-2-3 Got (77458756) 7.00 Alleons (2100447) 7.15 Tickle on the Turn (8244350) 7.30 Greham s Tickle parths Turn (6244350) 7.39 Graham's Adr. (4136975) 7.39 (Jeals Smith 8.00 Cassis Coronation Street (1185992) 8.30 Furnway (1184263) 9.00 Families (1108943) 9.30 Crown Court (5213824) 10.00 Park High (7057737) 10.30 The Brothers McCregor (1104027) 11.00 All for Love (2136896) 12.00 Classic Coronation Street (1195379) 12.30 pm Trouble in Mind



(\$217640) 1.00 Crown Court (8638832) 1.30 Familiee (\$216911) 2.00 Within These Wals (7068465) 3.00 The Brothers McGregor (7159811) 3.30 Park High (76477)8) 4.00 Jeeves and Wooder (1468973) 5.00 All for Love (7140283) 6.00 (146973) 5.00 All for Love (71442xxx) tous Cassin Corpretion Sires (756902) 6.30 Femilias (7550282) 7.00 The Doctor Sense: In Charge 2 (7141982) 7.30 Trouble in Mind (755646) 8.00 Et CD (8955447) 9.00 Classin Corpretion Street (5079766) 9.35 The Good Life (suide (1056447) 10.00-14 ffs. leasure and Windster (6519396) 11.00 Jeeves and Woo From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors

GRANADA GOOD LIFE From 6,00am-9.00 TV High Street. includes consumer news and leatures From 9.00-12.00 Food and Wine. inrecipes and ideas from Deka Smiti From 3.00-6.00 Home and Ga Includes The Good Life Style Guide THE HISTORY CHANNEL

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography Katharine Hepburn (2054080) 5.00 Modern Marveic (2811992) 6.00 Our Century: 1928-1938 (1338973)

Firms, features and classic sense, every day trom 8pm-4am Monday to Wednesday and 1am-4am Thursday to Sunday on satellite, and from 8am-4am every day on cable.

TLC/DISCOVERY 9.00am Tho Joy of Pantang (1654485) 9.30 Great Gardening (7056701) 10.00 Go Fishing (2000534) 10.30 House Syle (1650669) 11.00 Restoration Game (8709634) 11.30 Crahwise (8700263) 12.00 Julia Chrid (1634621) 12.30pm Graham Kerr (9951337) 1.00 Yan Can Cook (5305660) 1.30 Homa Again (8548698) 2.00 Furniture to Go (2665973) 2.30 Secret Gardenic (6969660) 3.00 Fishino Adven-

and from Barn-Ham every day on cable. 8.00pm Spelberg's Amazing Stories. 2838899 9.30 FHLM: Dume (10439282) 11.10 Finday the 13th (4965553) 12.00 The Incredible Halk (8226022) 1.00am The Twight Zone (8540428) 1.30 Tales of the Unsupersiad (2518480) 2.00 New Altred Histhrook (5528916) 2.30 Night Gallery (5530751) 2.00 Fisitay the 13th (3443848) 3.554.00 Quaris (34651208)

Gardens (3938602) 3.00 Fishing Adven-tures (2684008) 3.30-4.90 This Old House

4.00pm Fishing Adventures (8952282) 4.30 Driving Passions (8958466) 5.00 Time Travellers (2689553) 5.30 Terra x (8949718) 7.30 Wild Things (8939331) 6.30 Wild Things (893931) 7.00 Next Step (2576089) 7.30 Mysterious Universe (9276244) 8.30 Things (865391) 7.00 Next Step (2676089) 7.30 Mysterious Universe (8276244) 8.30 Unexplained (2664244) 9.00 Unexplained UFO Down to Earth (5915244) 10.00 The Specialists (5918331) 11.00 My Erfe Eye (8724843) 11.30 Wonders of Weather (2006718) 12.00 The Professionalis (1984041) 1.00am High Five (1043225) 1,30-2,00 Paramedics (2411664)

UK GOLD

7.00em Gong for Gold (224005) 7.35 Crossroads (4234718) 8.00 Neighbours (2631465) 8.25 EastEnders (2602250) 9.00 The Bifl (1656843) 9.30 Big Deal (7757009) (10.30 The Sulfuaris (1656027) 11.00 Jukel Bravo (7105242) 12.00 Crossroads (3569506) 12.55 EastEnders (3487379) 1.30 Rosse (4411465) 2.10 A Unite Bit of Danson (40934350) 2.30 Up the Elephant and Round the Castle (9830060) 3.00 Sulf Darson (403,4350) 2,20 Up the Elephant and Round the Castle (98,0000) 3,00 Sulc of the Century (286,455) 3,30 The Bill (99,280,5) 4,00 Che by Che (879,2241) 5,00 EastEnders (148,545) 5,35 Crossroud (289,839) 6,00 George and Michael (99,4808) 6,30 Till Death Us Do Part (505,554) 7,05 Bob's Full House (573,621) 7,45 Econol County (587,31621) 8,55 7.45 Every Second Counts (3567260) 8.25 On the Up (8618602) 9.00 Taggart (87103379) 10.05 The Bit (8539992) 10.40 The Fail and Rise of Regratid Perin (8121911) 11.20 Top of the Pops (2226737) 11.65 FILM: The Narrow Margin (6516244) 1.10am Fachard Digance (2902751) 2.05 Shopping at Night

6.00em Swan's Crossing (6470973) 6.20 Meltdown (6481039) 6.45 Haflway across the Galaxy and Turn Lett (886331) 7.15 Ready or Not (883244) 7.45 California Dreams (815843) 8.15 Sweet Valley High (320350) 8.45 Art Atlack (7615553) 9.00 Tiny and Crew (8665553) 9.20 Tiny and Crew (8665553) 9.20 Tiny and Prends (5982060) 10.00 Robin and Rose (8719843) 10.20 Präbert the Frog (327640) 10.40 Charle Chas. (7826602) 11.00 Direbabbes (10905) 11.30 Jim Honson's Annial Show (1653) 12.20 Barnay (17805) 12.30pm Where's Wally? (45175) 1.00 Casper and Friends (67485) 1.30 Tiny and Crew (67230009) 1.55

3.00 Hailway across the Galaxy and Turn Lett (9292) 3.30 Reedy or Not (9244) 4.00 Californa Dreams (8379) 4.30-5.00 Sweet Valley High (7263) NICKELODEON

6.00em Teerage Mutani Hero Turties (72379) 6.30 Baker Mace from Mars (29973) 6.00mm feenage Mutani Petro Tures (72379) 6.30 Black Mice from Mars (26973) 7.00 Rocko's Modern Life (7104241) 7.15 Hey Amold (456992) 8.20 Azantri Real Monsters (77263) 8.00 Where on Earth s Carnen Sandego' (91843) 9.30 Wishbone (75814) 10.00 Bananas in Pyjamas (597864) 10.10 Kane end Othe (524228c) 10.25 Mr Men (9610973) 10.45 Bananas in Pyjamas (9630737) 11.00 BBC Block (88843) 12.00 Clarista Explains it Al (88379) 12.30pm Sister Sister (75850) 1.00 Baba (9833111.30 Kaiha and Othe (25991) 2.00 Liftle Bear Stories (5534) 2.20 BBC Block (98718) 3.30 Aboth Real Monsters (6756) 4.00 Hey Amold (5260) 4.30 Rugrars (187756) 4.00 Hey Amold (5260) 8.30-7.00 Are You Ahad of the Durck (6960)

PARAMOUNT 7.00pm Ddf rent Strokes (9350) 7.30 Benson (2176) 8.00 Due South (95060) 9.00 Almost Pertect (87553) 9.30 Taxi (29114) 10.00 Enfectement Tongor (89008) 10.30 Flyng Bland (89556) 11.00 Paramount Presents (99998) 11.30 Night-stand (79466) 12.30mm Sledge Harrmert (96848) 1.00 Due South (82634) 2.00 Enterlamment Tongoli (36225) 2.30 Para-mount Presents (15732) 3.00 Flying Blind (95670) 3.30-4.00 Almost Portect (39312)

BRAVO 12.00 Fartasy Island (6906469) 1,00pm Remington Steele (4806796) 2.00 Automan (48569756) 3.25 FILM: The Secret of (1956/16) 3.35 Fillus: This Secret of Santa Vittoria (1559/534) 6.00 Ace 90 (1956/485) 6.30 Captain Scallet and Inc. Mysicrons (1957/737) 7.00 The Weier Margin (1964/114) 8.00 Starkly and Huich (1982/534) 8.00 Crimo Story (1942/398) 70.00-12.00 File: The End (8707176)

UK LIVING 6.00am Nitroy (4930982) 7.00 The Agony Expenence (410369) 7.30 The Young and the Restless (6407621) 8.20 Deta Smith (5861469) 8.55 Tumabout (7221559) 9.35 Call the Doctor (3882094) 18.00 Entertain[7727843] 11.00 The Young and the Restless (8598843) 11.55 Brooksde (60334440) 12.25pm Tinval Pursud (93684398) 12.50 Gabnelle (989270) 1.40 Rolonda (6106447) 2.30 The Agony Experence (4786350) 3.00 Live at Three (2007319) 4.00 Who's Sorry Now? (4777602) 4.30 Talkabout (9013282) 5.05 14777622 4.30 Talkabout (9013282) 5.05 Lurgo (92944263) 5.30 Lucky Ladders (4797466) 5.00 Bewitched (4794379) 6.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (6974195) 7.05 Brookside (4670379) 7.35 Timel Pursuit (2750718) 8.00 General Practice (2122231) 10.50 Entertainment Now! (7507060) 11.00-12.00 The Erogenous Zone

FAMILY CHANNEL 5.00pm Blockbusters (1027) 5.30 Treasuro Hurri (59669) 6.30 Cetcholyase (9008) 7.00 Humi 159659 5.30 Ceichghrause (9008) 7.00 The Pyramid Game (1263) 7.30 Hant to Hart (21602) 8.30 Dufy Free (6718) 9.00 Bergerac (51640) 10.00 Ruth Rendel Mystones (61027) 11.00 Rising Damo (35114) 11.30 Evening Shade (16563) 12.00 Moonlighting (79770) 1.00em Berge-rac (44770) 2.00 Hart to Hart (96564) 3.00 Moonlighting (23683) 4.00 Ali Together New (63633) 4.30-5.00 The Black Station

The 24 hour music channel, includes news, reviews. Inc concert toolage, ma wews and the latest music video charts

The video hits channel. Classic rock and

7.00am Jacgran 7.30 Lifestyle East 8.30 Positive Health Show 8.00 Bengali Senal Elber Tumbe Möwrja 9.30 Abhinetin 10.00 Tara 11.30 Daraar 12.00 Dance Maria 12.30pm Aaj Di Kahani 1.00 Urdu Move 4.00 Public Demand 5.00 ZEE Zone 5.30 Film Chalikar 6.00 Campus 6.30 ZEE and You 7.00 Hit Thi Hil Hai 7.30 Baneoi Aon Saat 8.00 News 8.30 Dastaan 9.05-12.00

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT inuous cartoons from Sam to Som Then TNT tittes as below. 9.00pm Meet Me In Les Veges (1956) (38250621) 11.00 Dark of the Sun (1968) (11447805) 12.45em The Gazebo (1959) (81467751) 2.30-5.00 Designing Woman (1967) 40077555;

West Indies found wanting in a test of nerves

RACING 53

Dublin Flyer looks equal to challenge of Grand National



WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 27 1996

Jenkins loses his place in team as veteran is recalled at stand-off half

Davies returns to call the tune for Wales

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

EIGHT years ago Jonathan Davies shrugged his slim shoulders and turned his back on Welsh rugby union, a sport that he felt had turned its back on him. Yesterday the nation embraced him once again upon his return to the red jersey bearing No 10, which he will wear for the 28th time against Australia, in Cardiff on Sunday.

Selection completes a remarkable journey for Davies. 34. In 1988 he had returned from a disastrous Wales tour to New Zealand eager to outline, for the benefit of the Welsh Rugby Union, his ideas for a better future; he received short shrift, he was criticised for his play - not least when the team he led lost to Romania during a dark December afternoon in Cardiff - and a month later he went to rugby

That code made the little man from Trimsaran, who was first a member of the Weish national squad as long ago as 1984, a giant of rugby. His career with Widnes, and later Warrington, carried him to a dozen Great Britain earances, not least against the Kangaroos at Wembley in 1994 before the professionalisation of rugby union allowed him to return home.

Not that anyone who saw his debut for Cardiff against Aberavon just over a year ago would have predicted a recall to the national team. Shunted hither and you in the Cardiff back division. Davies's evident discomfort was compounded by the serious illness suffered by his wife, Karen, and yesterday Davies revealed that Ken Williams, his stepfather, underwent an operation for cancer of the bowel last

This will mean a lot to my family." Davies said, when a team showing three changes

from the XV that started against Italy six weeks ago. was announced.

"It might be the turn of luck my family needs. Karen is good at the moment and I hope she will be proud of me. When we heard the decision we just looked at each other and laughed."

Davies wins the place at stand-off half ahead of Neil Jenkins and is joined in the side by Ieuan Evans, fit again after injury, and another player returning from rugby league, David Young, it will be Young's fifteenth cap at prop after a six-year career with Leeds and Salford before he, too, joined Cardiff at the start of this season. Scott

WALES XV

Gibbs retains his place at centre.

"Although progress has been made, I still think we need better game control. game awareness and decisionmaking," Kevin Bowring, the coach, said. "Jonathan has the knack of doing the right thing at the right time, he has played particularly well for Cardiff during the Heineken Cup and I am sure he can offer his experience to the national

Although Davies has talked of retiring at the end of this season — despite an expressed ambition to tour with the British Isles next summer his appetite for the game

remains strong. "When I came back to Wales it was harder for me than when I went north because of all the expectation," he said. "When I went to Widnes everyone said I wouldn't make it. When I came back to Cardiff I had to play everything down."

In addition to being the playmaker. Davies takes over the goalkicking role from Jenkins, for whom he had great sympathy. "Neil has been kicked so many times over the years that I am sure he will be back," Davies said, of a man whose points-scoring achievements have frequently stood between Wales and even more defeats than they have recently endured.

However short-term the decision may be, it is clearly designed to develop the confidence of a Wales side that, this season, has beaten the Barbarians but lost late on to France and only achieved the shakiest of wins over Italy in Rome. Wales have two other games, against South Africa and the United States, before opening their five nations campaign against Scotland on January 18 and will surely retain Davies over that period, or his experience and expertise will

England, against whom Davies opened his international career in 1985, have named an unchanged XV against the New Zealand Barbarians, at Twickenham on Saturday. Although Ben Clarke is fit enough to be included among the replacements, the management felt that Chris Sheasby's performance at No 8 against Italy last weekend deserves another opportunity. Jason Leonard and Andy Gomarsall have recovered from minor knocks.

ENGLAND (v. New Zestand Barbarians): T Stimpson (Newtastle). J Steightholme (Bath). W Carling (Hartequre). P de Glanville, capt (Bath). A Adebayo (Bath). M Catt (Bath). A Gomarsel (Wesps), G Promitte (Leicester), M Regan (Bristol). J Leonard (Hartequre). T Rocker (Northampton/Army). M Johnson (Leicestar). S Shaw (Bristol). L Daltaglio (Wesps), C Stressby (Wesps). Replace-ments: J Guscott (Bath). A King (Wasps), K Bracken (Saradens). R Hardwick (Covertry). P Greening (Gloucester). B Clarke (Rachmond).



Davies is delighted yesterday after being named in the Wales team to play Australia. It will be his 28th cap.

Back finds place in Andrew's team of all talents

NEIL BACK, the Leicester flanker who disgraced himself at the Pilkington Cup final last season, was given a chance to crase his most painful memory yesterday, when he was named in the Barbarians team to face Australia at Twickenham on December 7. In May he received a six-month suspension for pushing over the referee, Steve Lander, after Leicester had lost against Bath

to a penalty try.

Back has his club to thank for securing his place in the star-studded Barbarians side, which contains 13 full internationals, including the All Blacks, Ian Jones and Norm Hewitt, in the pack.

release Back from their first division france against Northampton because they consider it important for him to have happier memories of Twicken-ham after serving his ban-Back's Leicester colleague, Darren Garforth, also plays, as does the Northampton centre and Scotland captain, Gregor Townsend, after an agreement between the clubs

over freeing players.
The Barbarians have taken advantage of there being no second division programme on the day of the match and have chosen seven players all internationals — from Newcastle and Richmond, including the Quinnell brothers. Craig and Scott. Rob Andrew. who retired from international rugby a year ago, will captain the side and Tony Underwood, who is out of the England squad, will welcome the chance to appear in a big

match at Twickenham. The gate receipts will amount to £1.75 million, from which the still amateur Bar-barians will receive £30,000. The bulk of the money will be nations and the Rugby Football Union will receive a fee

for staging the match.
The Barbarians' sponsor,
Scottish Amicable, will pay £300 to youth rugby for every try scored by their side. This arrangement has produced £33,400 since 1990.

Consortium gives Clark new hope for the future By RICHARD HOBSON

Emerson ready to play

December 23.

Anderson watched Forest

draw 2-2 against Blackburn

Rovers on Monday evening,

when Colin Cooper equalised in injury time. The fact that Clark had to switch Cooper

from defence into midfield, in

the absence of the injured

Gemmill, Bart-Williams and

Stone, underlined the make-

do-and-mend approach that

the manager has had to adopt.

we have to make the right

decisions on signing the right

players," Anderson said yes-

terday. "That is our priority."

Indeed, recognising the ur-

gency of the predicament, the

former Partick Thistle player

"We are in a situation where

THE prospective owners of Nottingham Forest, the club propping up the FA Carling Premiership, say that they will not seek to displace Frank Clark, the manager, as they attempt to avoid relegation

into the Nationwide League. However, with an unenviable quintet of fixtures approaching, culminating in a visit to Old Trafford on Boxing Day, Forest could find themselves marooned by the time the new regime is able to give Clark money to spend in the transfer market.

A locally-based consortium. headed by Sandy Anderson, a multimillionaire, and supported by the club's directors, will give Clark up to £13 million to spend if their takeover bid is accepted by 70 per cent of the

DESPITE missing training

again, Emerson, Middles-

brough's Brazilian midfield

player, will probably make

his comeback against

Newcastle United in the

fourth round Coca-Cola Cup

tie at the Riverside Stadium

Bryan Robson, the Mid-

dlesbrough manager, said he will fine the £4 million player

for reporting back late for

training from a weekend

break in Portugal. He

allowed Emerson to go to

"sort out some problems", but

the Brazilian missed his re-

turn flight on Monday and

did not arrive back on Tees-

side until yesterday.

209 shareholders at an ex- wants to discuss the future traordinary general meeting with Clark even before the bid that is likely to take place on is approved.

"Îm sure Frank has some excellent ideas on which way the club has to go," he said. "I cannot make judgments on his situation by sitting in the stand, miles away from the issues. I need to know what conditions he has been working under and how he has been asked to operate."

Before tackling Manchester United, Forest face the Premiership's top foor, — Wim-bledon on Saturday, followed by Newcastle United, Liverpool and Arsenal. In between Clark will begin to sound out

potential new signings.

He intimated recently that he was scrutinising the Scandinavian market, and failed to sign Dalian Alkinson, the former Aston Villa and Sheffield Wednesday forward from Fenerbahçe, the Turkish side, on loan. With money becoming available soon, he may attempt to bring Stan Collymore back from Liverpool or pursue his long-standing interest in Dean Holdsworth, the Wimbledon forward, and Alan Thompson, the Bolton Wanderers mid-

field player. Anderson is yet to reveal the role he envisages for himself and his three partners at the City Ground - Nigel Doughty, a merchant banker, Charlie Scott, who works in advertising, and Tim Farr, an

existing shareholder. We are all supporters who want to do something to help," Anderson said. "We have

parade for national

Stewart on

service

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF JACKIE STEWART will have

a whole country behind him when he re-emers the world of Formula One motor racing next season. The former world champion's new team, Stewart-Ford, will be sponsored by Malaysia. Mahathir Mohamad, the

Malaysia Prime Minister. said: "This is the first time a nation state, as a whole, has become directly involved in sponsoring a world motor sport at its highest level."

His country's involvement was, he said, part of a continuing campaign to gain approval for its hid to stage a grand prix in 1999, which was being hampered by an identity crisis that has reached global

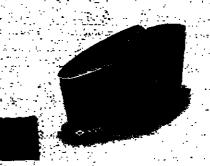
There are still many who think Malaysia is in China or even Africa, just because Malaw is there. There are others who say Malaysia is near Singapore, but we want people to say Singapore is near Malaysia," Mahathir

The two Stewart-Ford cars will be adorned with the sponsor's national flag and an emblem imploring speciators at the racetrack, and millions of television viewers, to "Visit Malaysia". Malaysian involvement in

motor racing is not a new phenomenon. The country's national oil company, Petroliam Nasional (Petronas), has already entered into a fivevear snongarshin deal with the Switzerland-based Sauber

team.



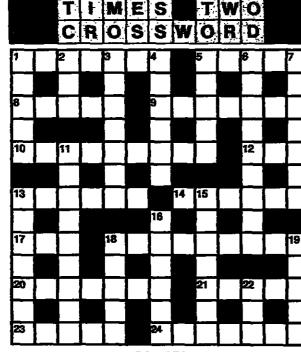


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Temporary doctor (5)

Composer, b. 29/2/1792; a tournedos recipe (7)

Portuguese piece of China (5)

(Places of) riotous living (9)

Transparently clear (6)

Restrain, prevent (7)

18 Public conveyance: train (5)

Neckwear (3)

11 Exercise hall (9)

15 Liberty (7)

16 Discover (6)

19 Of the sun (5)

13 One from Lusaka (7)

22 Boring hand-tool (3)

ACROSS Word for word; a misprint (7)

Civilian dress; Muslim authority (5) 16-men-a-side game (5) Thane, sleep-walking wife (7)

10 Grandee (9) 12 Centre of activity, wheel (3) 13 Automaton: a living dead (6)

14 On the sea (6) 17 Extinct NZ bird (3) 18 Generally agreed view (9)

20 Copy (7) 21 Slow, languid way of speech (5) 23 Dragonfly larva (5)

24 Crusader knight (7)

SOLUTION TO NO 949 ACROSS: 1 Poky 3 Stockpot 9 Nasal 10 Rhubarb 11 Regatta L2 City 14 Choose 16 Cloche 18 Oboe 19 Regalia 22 Opening

23 Spoke 24 Snowfall 25 Feat DOWN: 1 Pinprick 2 Kiss goodbye to 4 Turban 5 Council 6 Practical joke 7 To be 8 Clot 13 Decadent 15 Sheriff 17 Frugal

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 945 In association with BRITISH MIDLAND ACROSS: 1 Diminuendo 8 Viaduet 9 Swine 10 Daub 11 Frontier 13 Spear 14 Testy 16 Preamble 17 Croc 20 Lathe 21 Crusade 22 Dead letter

DOWN: 1 David 2 Measurements 3 Nous 4 Entire 5 Disunity 6 Civil servant 7 Pearly 12 Première 13 Supple 15 Sliced 18 Clear 19 Jute lst PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on

BRITISH MUDLAND's domestic or international network is J Hone,

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic network is A Commie. Havant, Hampshire. all flights subject to availability.

Emerson's latest show of defiance has clearly tested Robson's patience to the limits, but the Middlesbrough

tonight

manager is convinced that the Brazilian is in the right frame of mind to face Newcastle. "I am sure Emerson will be

focused on the game," Robson said, "I don't think there is a problem over that and I am convinced that the fans will give him a tremendous

□ Neil Warnock, the Plym-

outh Argyle manager, will be staying at the second division club after talks with Dan McCauley, the chairman, yes-Warnock and McCauley held a three-hour meeting with Roger Matthews, the chief executive, Michael Jones, the assistant manager, and Peter Bloom, the vice-chairman at Home Park. The Argyle manager had fallen out with McCauley

and offered his resignation.

some of the best business acumen and yet we live locally with a strong sense of allegiance to Nottingham Forest."